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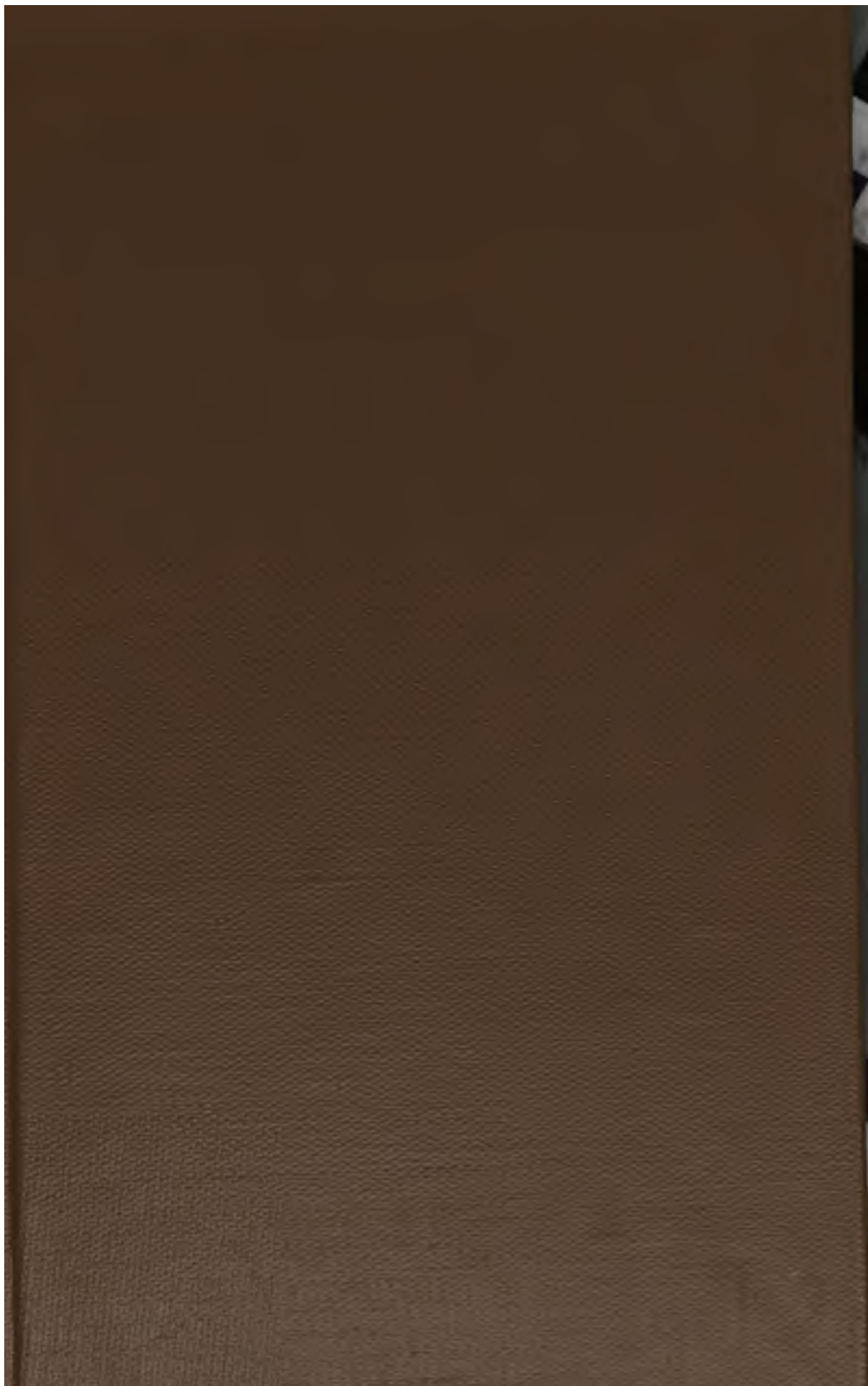
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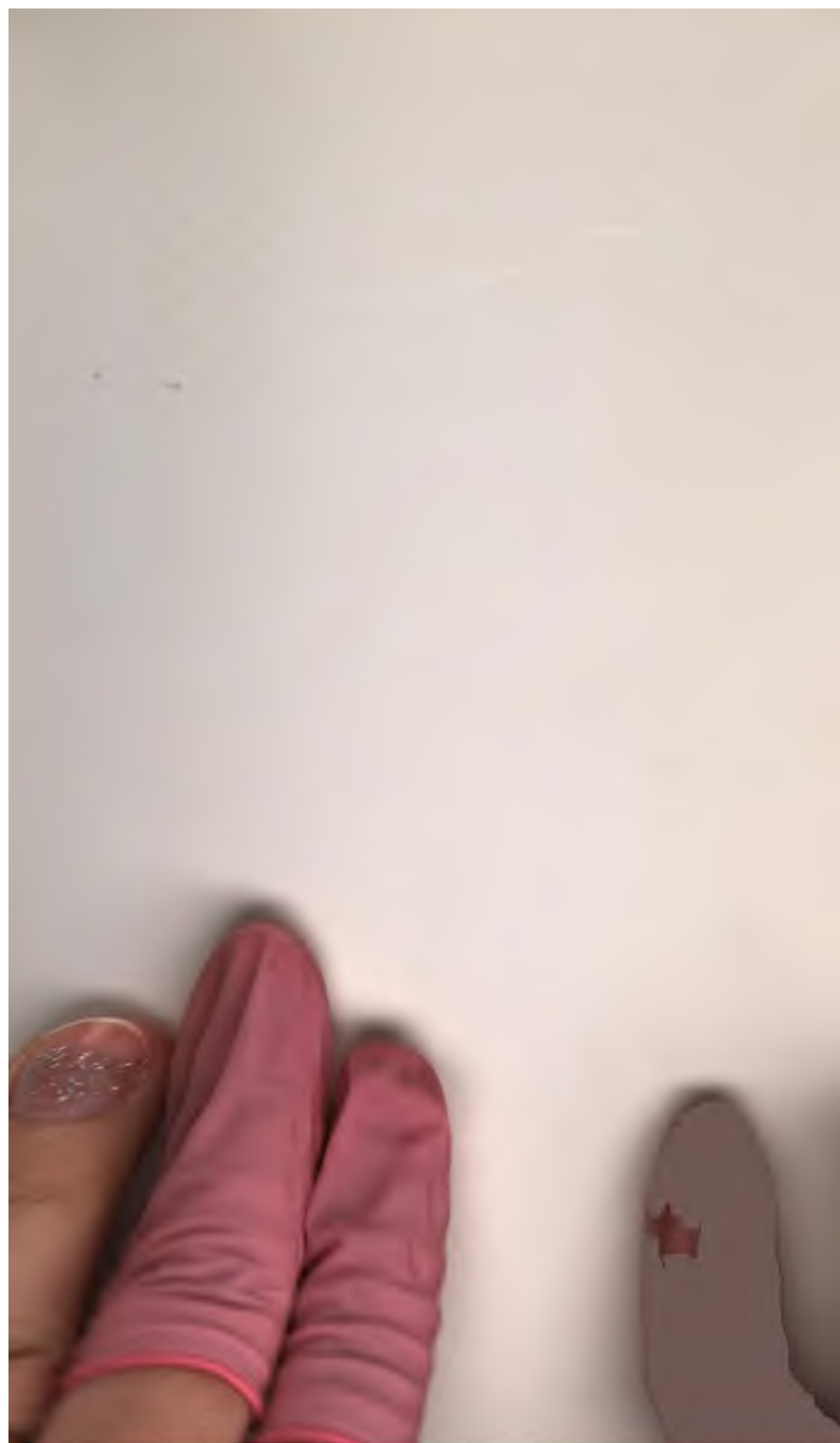
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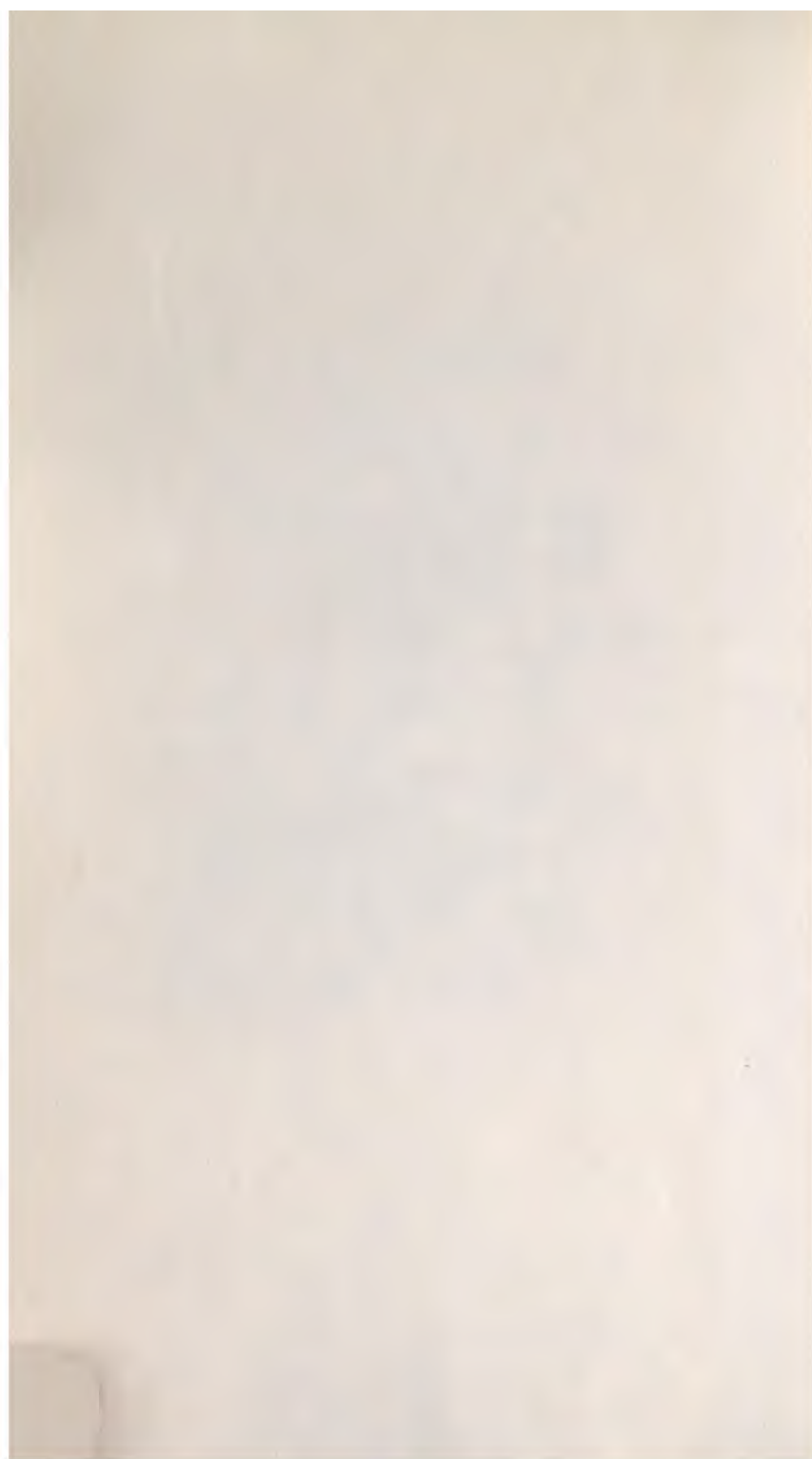
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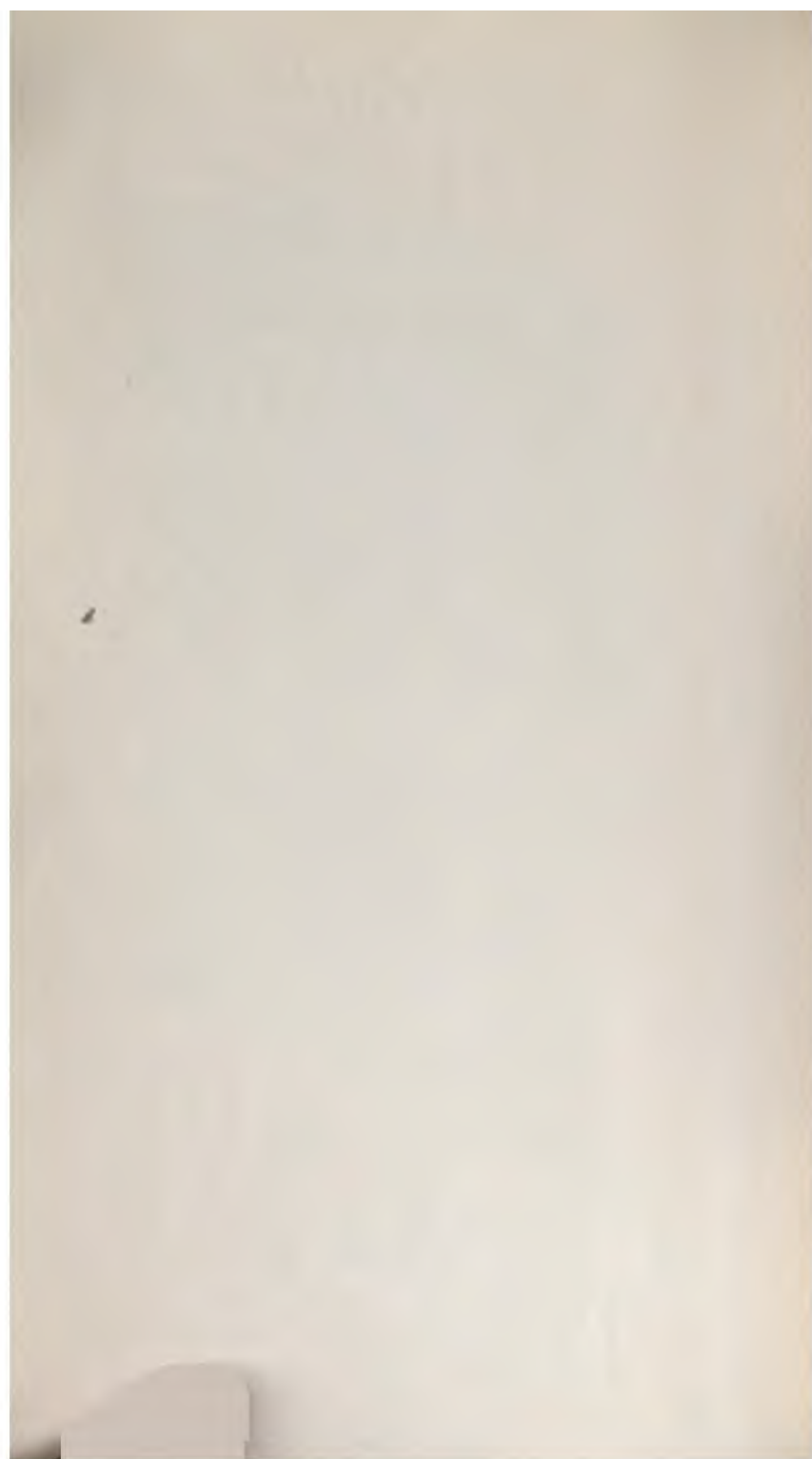


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WITNEY CHURCH.

ST. ANDREW'S
CHURCH

Pub. by J. S. S. 1840

W. Whitmore del.

HISTORY OF WITNEY

WITH NOTICES OF
THE NEIGHBOURING PARISHES AND HAMLETS,
COGGES, CRAWLEY, CURBRIDGE, DUCKLINGTON,
HAILEY, MINSTER LOVEL, AND STANTON
HARCOURT,

BY
THE REV. DR GILES, FORMERLY FELLOW OF C. C.
COLLEGE, OXFORD.

LONDON :
J. R. SMITH, 4 OLD COMPTON ST. SOME SQUARE;

1852.

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PREFACE.

Those who are aware of the difficulties which attend the compilation of a local history, will readily forgive the delay which has occurred in the publication of this work. Where information has to be gleaned, sentence by sentence, from many individuals, and various different works, the process must necessarily be slow, and the result not always satisfactory. The necessity, also, of copying many records, not from the original papers—for in many cases their existence or their locality is doubtful—but from copies perhaps imperfect, seldom fails to be the cause of many errors, and the author of the present work is convinced that his book has much to crave, on this score, from the indulgence of his readers. Still, he hopes that many curious facts have been here got together, and much information that will interest the inhabitant of Witney; he even flatters himself that no other town, of the same size, in all the three kingdoms, has, on the whole, been more thoroughly illustrated, than the town of Witney has been in the present volume.

The plates which are given in this volume, may be relied on for accuracy and faithful representation of the originals; but they have no higher pretensions: the price of the volume and the small number of copies printed have precluded the possibility of giving better ones. For the drawing of the OLD BRIDGE, the work is indebted to Mr Wilkinson. The thanks of the author, and also of his readers, are due to J. M. Davenport esq, and to Mr W. Langford. The former communicated to the author the valuable MS. Collections of the late Rev. T. Symonds, vicar of Ensham, to the latter the editor is indebted for sundry communications, too many to be here specified.

In conclusion, it may be remarked that a work of local history like the present, should always be brought out by a writer, who is either a native, or has passed the greater part of his life on the spot. The author of the present volume has neither of these claims to ensure accuracy to his work. It remains, therefore, for him to claim indulgence on this as on every other score, and whilst he is content that he has done his best according to the means allowed him, he is morally sure that no other person seemed inclined to do it at all.

And here the author closes his work on the day that ushers in a new year : may it be to him and to his readers as happy as the last, though it cuts off from him for ever one source of pleasure, which the preceding year had opened to him—namely the investigation of the past history of the town of Witney.

Bampton, Jan. 1, 1855.

J. A. G.

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This is a substantial building, of a peculiar Elizabethan architecture. It bears over the door, carved in stone, the date 1564.

- III. High Street, to face page 12.

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- IV. The Old Bridge, to face page 17.

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2. South-east or inside view of the same tower.

3. Minster Lovel in 1832, seen from the other side of the river. The roofed building in the foreground contains the apartment which I have supposed to have been the withdrawing room. It is now (in 1852) roofless.

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1. Caswell House—The long line of roof with its gable end—the nearest of the two gables—is ancient. The farthest gable with the intermediate building is modern, and has been built to match the old. Thus the present building is made out of the right wing of the old. The left wing is entirely gone. A tapestried chamber and a fine old cellar are to be seen within.

2. Restored North view of Minster Lovel.

HISTORY OF WITNEY.

§ 1. PARISH AND HAMLETS OF WITNEY.

The town of Witney is situated on the river Windrush, about five miles above its junction with the Isis. Though the houses and streets of the town have strayed eastward beyond this natural barrier, yet the parish itself lies mostly upon the western bank, and, consequently, is the most easterly parish in the Hundred of Bampton:

As in the case of the town and parish of Bampton, its next neighbour, the word *Witney* has two significations. At one time the name implies the township or small territory occupied by the town itself and two or three adjoining fields; at another time it is used to describe the whole district, which for certain parochial purposes is connected with the town: and in this sense the name denotes not only the township of Witney, but also the hamlets Hailey, Crawley and Curbridge, all of which pay tithes to the vicar, and until recently, all sent their inhabitants to attend the mother-church on Witney Green.

According to the wider sense, in which the name is used, the parish of Witney is bounded on the east by the parishes of North Leigh and Coggs, on the south by Ducklington and Lew, on the west and north by Minster Lovel and North-leigh. Its length from north to south is about 4 miles from North-leigh to Ducklington, and its breadth about 3 miles from Coggs to Minster Lovell. In this

estimate are included the township of Witney, properly so called, with the three hamlets or subordinate parishes of Hailey, Curbridge and Crawley.

The town of Witney is situated on the high road between Oxford and Cheltenham, and is distant 11 miles from the former, and 29 from the latter of those cities. About half-way between Oxford and Witney is the town of Ensham, and in going from Witney to Cheltenham, the traveller passes through the towns of Burford and Northleach.*

§ 2. POPULATION AND ACREAGE.

The population of Witney and its dependent hamlets is 5138, according to the census of this year, and the number of acres in the whole parish about 7500, distributed in the following manner :

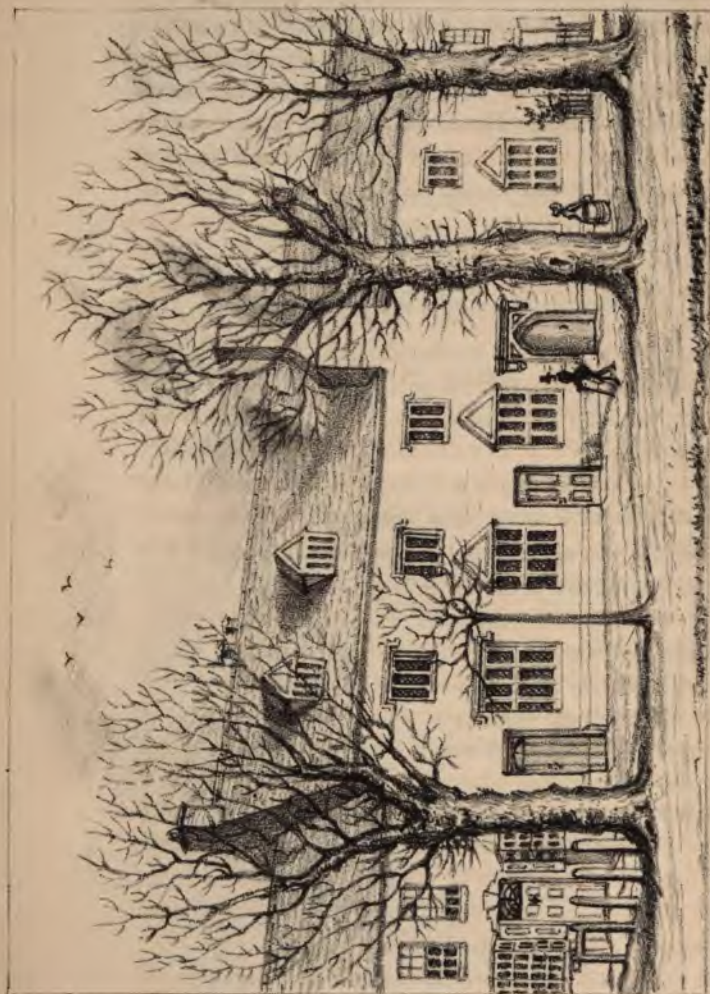
Witney township . . .	acreage	188	population	3103
Hailey		2827		1324
Crawley		1116		245
Curbridge		3076		466

§ 3. GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE TOWN.

The town of Witney presents to the eye of the stranger an appearance of being remarkably neat and cheerful. It consists chiefly of one long street, the upper part of which is called High Street and the lower Bridge Street, together, about a mile in length. Parallel with this at the back of the town on the east, flows the river Windrush, separating the town from the adjoining small parish of Coggs. From the opposite extremities of High

* The villages which lie round Witney are thus enumerated in the following doggrel, and not very complimentary verses :

Hailey, Crawley, Curbridge, and Coggs,
 Witney spinners and Ducklington dogs :
 Finstock upon the hill, Fawler down derry,
 Beggarly Ramsdon and lousy Charlbury :
 Woodstock for bacon, Bladon for beef,
 Handborough for a scurvy knave, and Comb for a thief.



W. Seely del.

OLD HOUSE ON CHURCH GREEN.

Street and Bridge Street, and running almost parallel to one another, two other streets lead towards the west ; the one, Corn Street, being the high-road to Cheltenham, the other, West End, leads to Crawley, Hailey, Charlbury, and Whichwood Forest. Half-way between West End and Corn street, and parallel with both, is Mill Lane, forming a short cut to the neighbouring town of Burford. At the point, where the West End joins Bridge Street, in the lowest part of the town, two other roads, one leading almost north, through Wood Green, to Woodstock, and the other, leading through Ensham to Oxford, unite with Bridge Street and the West End, and form a sort of cross road near the old inn called Staple Hall. Within a few hundred yards from Staple Hall, on the Oxford road, is Newland, a sort of outlying district or hamlet belonging to Witney. At about the same distance, on the Woodstock road, is Wood Green, which has been much improved, of late, by the erection of a handsome district church.

Following the course of the High Street in the opposite direction, towards the south, we ascend to the upper and more ancient part of the town, and the road gradually expanding, ends in a large green, through which we advance, by a wide and handsome gravel walk to the northern door of the parish church, which thus forms an appropriate and handsome termination to a street, that for neatness and competence of substantial buildings, has hardly its equal, in any English town of similar dimensions.

Opposite the west end of the church is the parsonage house, surrounded by its garden and shrubberies ; on the other side of the church is a house standing in a field, known by the name of the Mount house, and still retaining traces of the walls with which it was once fortified. Nearer to the centre of the town on the eastern side, stands an old halfquadrangular building called the College, and lower still are several remains of ancient buildings, which we shall hereafter have to describe more narrowly. On the western side of the Green, going towards the centre of the town, are, the Grammar school, some almshouses, and the remains of an old Gothic building, with pointed windows, now forming part of the

premises occupied by Mr Clinch's extensive brewery. In the broad part of the High Street, immediately below the Green, is the Market Cross, and, lower still, the Town Hall, a large modern building of stone with a piazza beneath, intended for a market-place.

Below the Town-Hall, on the right or eastern side of the street, is another old building of the Elizabethan age, and now generally known as the Excise Hall. The street here descends and narrows gradually until we reach an old Tudor building with gable ends, on the western side of the street, and now occupied by Mr Hanan's Coach and Carriage manufactory. Between this point and the bridge there is nothing of much interest, but the new and elegant Gothic Chapel for the use of the Wesleyan congregation, on the right hand side of the street, and another, on the opposite side of the way, belonging to the Independents. Between the bridge and Staple Hall, here and there, peep out some slight remains of old houses, which, if still preserved, would have furnished a rich treat to the architect and the antiquary.

The weaving shops, belonging to the blanket-manufactories, for which Witney has been so long deservedly famous, are principally at Newland and West End: the mills lie at intervals along the banks of the Windrush, above the town.

§ 4. EMMA'S DIKE.

About half-way between the bridge and the market-place, and immediately adjoining the old Tudor house occupied by Mr Hanan, is the end of an ancient dike or fosse, abutting against the street,* which after flowing, first west, round the outskirts of the town, crosses Corn Street at the farther end, and thence running south at a considerable distance from the town, enters the river Windrush about one mile below the parish church. The purpose for which this dike was dug, has long puzzled antiquarians. The only apparent purpose, which can be assigned to it, is the drainage of the meadows, though it is difficult to explain why the dike ends so abruptly against the street, and is not continued, below it, so as to join the Windrush which runs within two hundred yards on the

* For the first half-mile this trench is sometimes called Gun's Hole.



W. Seely del.

HIGH STREET.

other side of High Street, whereas in the opposite direction the dike runs nearly three miles from the point where it begins to its junction with the Windrush.

A more curious inquiry concerns the name which this dike bears, and which tradition assigns to Emma queen of Ethelred the Unready, and mother of Edward the Confessor. A short account of this lady will not be here misplaced.

§ 5. QUEEN EMMA.

In the 9th and 10th centuries the Northmen or Normans had spread terror and devastation over all the northern parts of Europe. The genius and talents of Alfred the Great drove away those pirates more than once from the English coasts, but even in England they made settlements in different parts of the island, and communicated a fresh ingredient to form the character of the modern Englishman. Rollo, one of their greatest sea-kings, landed in France, and wrested from its weak king the fertile province of Normandy,—so called from its invaders,—and his descendants kept possession of this fief until John, king of England, was expelled from it by the arms of Philip Augustus king of France. Rollo became the first duke or earl of Normandy, and his successors were so powerful as often to make war against the French king, who was nominally their superior lord.

From this Rollo was descended Richard duke of Normandy, whose daughter Emma, in the year 1002, was given in marriage to Ethelred the Unready, king of England. This Ethelred was a weak and inefficient prince, who through his whole life suffered from the invasions and ravages of the Danes. The arrival of queen Emma, though not her marriage with Ethelred, is related in the Saxon Chronicle, ANNO 1002 :

In the same Lent, came the lady, Richard's daughter, Emma Elfgive [this was her Saxon name] hither to land.

And it seems from an entry in the same old Chronicle, ANNO 1003, as if the marriage of Ethelred with a lady near of kin to the Northern ravagers, was the first step towards the disasters which were afterwards caused by the Normans in England. We read

ANNO 1003. This year was Exeter entered by storm, through the French churl Hugh, whom the lady [i. e. QUEEN EMMA] had appointed her steward : and then the army [i. e. THE DANISH ARMY] entirely ruined the town, and there took much booty.

Queen Emma had two sons by Ethelred the Unready, Edward, who afterwards became king of England and is known by the name of Edward the Confessor, and Alfred, who was murdered by Godwin earl of Kent. The queen was not happy in her marriage with Ethelred, for they seldom lived together, and the kingdom was in a most wretched state during all his reign. She seems to have resided much in Oxfordshire, for Islip is mentiond as one of her villis or manors. This accounts for her son Edward being born at Islip. A baptismal font was preserved until the year 1660 in an old barn in the yard of the Red Lion Inn, which according to tradition was Edward the confessor's chapel, and the font, that in which the same king was christened. In 1660 this font was purchased and removed to Nether Kiddington, where it is still to be seen in the garden of Mostyn Browne esquire.

After the death of Ethelred, and the murder of Edmund Ironside, Canute was made king of England ; and a new field was opened to the ambition of Emma. Canute offered her his hand, and Emma accepted it, on condition that, if they had a son, he should succeed Canute as king of all his large dominions. Their son was named Hardicanute, and he afterwards became king of England, not however until his elder brother Harold Harefoot, Canute's son by a former marriage, had reigned before him.

Whilst Harold Harefoot was king, his stepmother queen Emma lived in foreign parts, and was at Bruges, when he died. Here she was joined by her own son Hardicanute, who took her and his half-brother Edward with him to England. Hardicanute reigned only two years, and after his death, the old Saxon line was restored, much to the delight of the English, in the person of her son Edward. The fortunes of the queen-mother began now to brighten ; bnt they were again darkened by the event which connects her story with that of Witney.

* "For some political reason, with which the old historians do not condescend to make us acquainted, Robert, afterwards archbishop of Canterbury, the then favourite of the monarch, published a calumnious report against Emma, the mother queen, charging her with a criminal connexion with our prelate, as well as being accessary to the death of her son Alfred, and throwing impediments in the way of the succession of Edward the Confessor. The ground work of the base insinuation which formed the first charge, was, no doubt, the great friendship and regard which subsisted between the Bishop and his royal ward. The archbishop, at the order of the king ('præcipiente rege') convened a synod, and it was determined (adds my author, though the older historians are silent on the point,) that the queen should undergo the test, so usual in that superstitious age, of the fiery † ordeal. To this test she gladly assented, and walked over nine red-hot plough shares which were placed on the pavement in the nave of Winchester Cathedral, without suffering the least injury from them. Malmesbury, Huntingdon, Hovedon, and Simeon of Durham, have not recorded this extraordinary event. But Ralph Higden, a writer of the

*Cassan's Lives of the Bishops of Winchester, vol. i, p. 132.

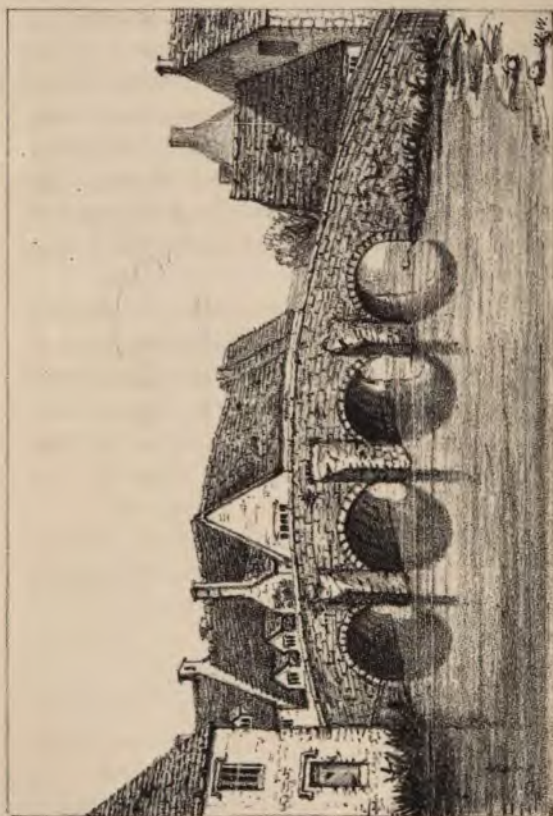
† The word ORDEAL is derived from *or* great, and *deal* judgment. Ordeal was of four kinds. 1st, By red hot iron, either held in the hand or walked upon with the feet, bare. 2nd, By boiling water, into which the person accused was to plunge his arm. 3rd, By cold water, into which the suspected party was thrown. 4th, by duel. These several modes of impiously tempting God, were repeatedly sanctioned by the laws of the kingdom; as may be seen in BROMPTON'S COLLECTIONS; such was the blind superstition of that age. Bishop Milner makes a remark upon this unchristian judgment, which, if it did not proceed from a Roman Catholic, one must suppose emanated from one not sound in the intellect. "Being practised with an UPRIGHT MIND and LIVELY FAITH, there is NO DOUBT, but the Almighty did frequently interpose in behalf of innocence." But of this, I beg to doubt, nor does "the authentic history" to which the learned Historian of Winchester alludes, at all remove my scepticism. King James I, who, as a Protestant Monarch, ought to have known better, revived some of these foolish and impious practices.

14th Century, in his *Polychronicon*, relates it at length ; and it is also transmitted by the more recent historians. The Saxon Chronicle, though it speaks of the harsh conduct of the Confessor towards his mother Emma, (see A. D. 1043) says nothing of the ordeal.

Wharton, in his *Hist. Eng. Poetry*, vol. 1, p. 89, says, that in the year 1338, (about three centuries after the fact) when Adam de Orleton, Bishop of Winton, visited his cathedral priory of St Swithun in that city, a minstrel named Herbert was introduced, who sung the tale of *Queen Emma delivered from the ploughshares*, in the hall of the prior, Alex. de Herriard. He cites as his authority *MSS. in Archiv. Wolvesey. Wint.* The event, if it took place at all, must have taken place between 1043 and 1047, the former being the period of Edward's consecration as King ; (*Sax. Chron.* A. D. 1043) and the latter, the time of the demise of Bishop Alwyn, who was present at the ordeal. This delivery of queen Emma was, it seems, the fortunate means of enriching Winchester Cathedral with no less than twenty-one manors. The King having conferred on it three, queen Emma nine, and the Bishop nine. Rudborne thus particularizes their several donations : The King (Edward the confessor) gave Portland, Wykhelewelle, [Wyke regis.] and Waymuthe. Queen Emma gave Brandesbury, Bergefild, Fyffhide [*Fyfield*,] Hoghtone, Mychelmeryshe, Ivyngeloh, Wycombe, Weregrays, and Haylynge. The Bishop gave Stoneham, East and West Meone, Hentone, Wytneye [*Witney*] Yelynge, Mylbroke, Polhamptone, and Hodyngtone. As for the ploughshares, they received an exemption from future duty, being buried in the West Cloister of the Cathedral. The whole of this ridiculous story is treated by Bishop Godwin, with merited contempt. ' Quæ de Emmæ purgatione referuntur fabulæ (ne dicam aniles) monachales,' p. 57."

§ 6. THE RIVER WINDRUSH.

The river Windrush, sometimes spelt Wainrus, rises a few miles within the county of Gloucester, near a village of the same name, which is famous for a quarry of free stone. It enters



THE OLD BRIDGE.

Oxfordshire near Tainton, and, with a westerly course, passes by the Priory at Burford, from thence directs its winding course through the villages of Widford, Swinbroke, Asthall, Minster Level, and Crawley, to Witney, where it forms two streams, which run in a northern direction through the meadows, at the distance of about a mile from each other, nearly parallel, and again effect their junction at Standlake mill. It passes through Ducklington, Hardwick and Standlake, and arriving at Newbridge it adds its very important stream to the river Isis or Thames. Indeed it contributes a greater body of water to that river than any other stream from its source until we reach the river Kennet. In its progress of twenty miles, the Windrush turns more than twenty mills, some used for grinding corn, and others for fulling the blankets, and spinning the wool for the factories at Witney. The nitrous quality of the water, and the saponaceous admixture in the clay, contribute much to the whiteness of the Witney blankets.

This river is famous for its trout and cray-fish: the beautiful red colour of the latter when boiled is attributed to the purity of the water. It is remarkable that cray-fish do not thrive in the Evenlode a neighbouring river. "My friend Mr Swann," says Mr Symons in his manuscript Collections, vol. i, p. 65, "has brought cray-fish from the Windrush and put them into the Evenlode, but they soon lose their colour and disappear."

It is thought, by some local antiquaries that this river formed the boundary between the old Saxon kingdoms of Mercia and Wessex: this is only conjectural, but not improbable.

§ 7. THE OLD BRIDGE.

At the bottom of High Street and at the point where Bridge Street begins, the Windrush crosses the town, flowing from the north-west to the south-east. Here formerly stood a very ancient bridge of three arches. This venerable structure, of which we now know nothing, except what may be learnt from the numerous

drawings of it that still exist, appears to have been as ancient as the times of the Saxons; by which I would imply that, not only was there a bridge on this spot before the Norman Conquest, but it is not improbable that the basement of the very bridge which was removed a few years ago, belonged to the original Anglo-Saxon structure. But bridges, like their builders, decay by length of time, and are sure, at last, to undergo the process of dissolution. Whether the final breaking up and disappearance of the old structure in Witney are due to time alone, or have been hastened by external causes, is a question for the imagination to decide. No historical facts have been recorded; but tradition, which sometimes tells the truth, is fond of dilating on a great wassail held, within the memory of man, by some of the ardent spirits of the town, and it is hinted that the doings of that evening sealed the doom of this ancient bridge.

§ 8. GRADUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN IN THE TIMES OF THE
BRITONS, SAXONS, NORMANS AND MODERN ENGLISH.

The origin of most English cities is lost in the darkness of past ages; like the heroes of antiquity, whose origin is referred to the gods, so the foundation of our towns and cities, for aught that we know for certain to the contrary, may be co-eval with the ground on which they stand. But even this obscure subject may, now and then, be satisfactorily illustrated, if not altogether cleared up. Man's operations always partake of a certain character, resulting from his physical conformation, his natural tendencies and other peculiarities. The first inhabitants of our ancient cities, no doubt chose their sites with reference to their convenience as places of habitation. A mere glance at the position of Witney from the roads leading to Burford and Bampton cannot fail to suggest to the mind of the antiquarian the true etymology of the name Witney, and the reasons which led to its being chosen as a place of habitation. We learn from Cæsar's Commentaries, written about 50 years before Christ, that the first

people of this island had fortified places or strong-holds in the depths of their forests, surrounded by marshes, stagnant lakes, thick underwood, and, in short, by any such natural productions as served to render them difficult of access, if not absolutely impassable to an enemy. The approach to Witney in the direction before-named, leads the mind to picture to itself the same scene, removed back nineteen hundred years, to the days of Cæsar. The stream of the Windrush, flowing with a tolerably fast current, towards the south-east and possibly in those ancient times making a continual marsh of the meadows on both sides of it, skirts along for some hundreds of yards on the north east a large round eminence of land, standing perhaps 50 perpendicular feet about the bed of the river, and covering several acres of ground. This eminence is, again, protected on all its other sides by a marsh where now flows Emma's dike: but this artificial channel had not been cut in the times which we are now describing, of the Ancient Britons.

The whole country, and not only Bampton, might at that time fairly be said to be in the Bush. Certainly, the meadows round Witney would soon, if left to themselves, generate a growth of trees and underwood, which would make it extremely difficult for the foot of man to find a path, except in such track-ways as lay, possibly, in different directions, and guided the natives to their hidden woodland fastness. To complete the fortification which best suited our primitive forefathers, a few trees felled and fallen in a row, formed the inner ramparts of the fortress which sometimes contained all the wealth and protected all that was dear to the British tribes.

Such, once, was Witney, whilst the Briton was still free from Roman dominion, and, possibly, it retained the same character until the landing of Hengist and Horsa brought into our island a new race of men who have handed down to us their descendants some of the most valuable features of character that have ever been stamped on any race of men.

To the Saxons, possibly, may be ascribed the erection of the

mound or earth-work, which certainly once surrounded this town, and of which a zealous native antiquary—Mr Langford, assures me he has found traces still existing. At all events the name of the Mount-house seems to point to such a theory, though this argument also is not quite conclusive, because the name of that ancient house may quite as well be supposed to describe the elevated position or *mount* on which it stands as the *mound* which may have run round the town. The traces of the *mound* are, however, more plain in the neighbourhood of that house than at any other part of the circuit.

But, if Witney received any fresh peculiarity of character from the Saxons, it certainly takes its name from the occupation of that busy and plodding race of men. The WITAN-EYE, or, as it is also written in the Anglo-Saxon or old English dialect, WITAN-IGE, evidently signifies the *island of the wise men* or *of the Parliament*; it is well known that the Saxons,—far more respectful in that particular towards their senate than we their descendants—always attributed *wisdom* as the chief and in fact necessary virtue of their representatives. Thus the word Witney means etymologically PARLIAMENT ISLE, though no record has been handed down to us to tell for what reason such a name was given. There is a large house still named Parliament House at the corner of the Crofts lane, which, to the minds of some, conveys a tradition concerning the etymology of the name Witney; but other persons, perhaps too much given to matter of fact and insensible to the delusions of fancy, reject the notion altogether.

As the Saxons were never famous for architectural skill, it is useless to expect that any traces of their buildings should be found in Witney; but it was absolutely necessary that they should have some mode of crossing the Windrush at the foot of the town, and there was, therefore, probably a bridge of stone over that river even in the Saxon times; but the entire removal of the old bridge has cut off all hopes of verifying this supposition, nor can we point to any other buiding which contains any remnant of the Saxon times. Even the church seems to be, in all its parts,

According to the words of this instrument, the bishop of Winchester demised to the lessees, "All that the manor or lordship and borough of Witney, in the county of Oxford, with all their rights, members, appurtenances, and all messuages, mills, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, commons, wastes, heaths, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions, services, courts, perquisites of courts, reliefs, heriots, fines, amerciaments of green wax, and other amerciaments, wards, marriages, parks, warrens, chases, liberties, franchises, privileges, waifs, estrays, felons' goods, and chattels of outlaws, deodands, manures of the tenants, and all other profits, commodities, and hereditaments, with all and singular their appurtenances whatsoever to the said manor or borough, or to any of them in any wise belonging or appertaining, or that be or have been accepted, reputed, taken or known as part, parcel, and member of the same manor or borough of or any part thereof, (except and always reserved out of this present demise unto the said lord bishop and his successors the parsonage and advowson of the Rectory of the parish church of Witney aforesaid, and all great timber trees growing or hereafter to grow in or upon the premises or any part thereof: And also Except all that farm with the appurtenances called or known by the name of Curbridge now or late in the occupation of Joyce Weston or her assignee or assigns, under-tenant or under-tenants, And also Except all that moiety of a fulling mill, parcel of the said manor, and all those lands called or known by the name of Burrough Crofts, late in the possession of H. Box esq., his assignee or assigns, under-tenant or under-tenants, And also Except all such right of common, as the tenants or inhabitants of the manor or borough of Witney of right ought to have in any of the wastes, moors or commons, belonging to that manor or borough."

Many other persons, besides the bishop, possess mills and estates, within the manor, of various tenures, and there are a great many estates of copyhold, or customary freehold tenure, alienable only by surrender at the lord's court baron.

The lord holds a court-leet annually for the manor, and also

one for the ancient borough of Witney. At these courts the jury present encroachments of the waste, and their persentments are recorded on the rolls of the manor. The fee of the waste or soil of the manor is in the lord, subject to common rights.

The court-rolls of the manor occupy some forty volumes, now in the custody of James Westell esq. coroner for the county of Oxford and deputy steward of the manor.

The following is the form of a surrender and admission to copyhold property taken from the court-rolls: and we find that the same form has been literally adhered to for two or three centuries.

THE MANOR OF WITNEY A COURT BARON of the most
WITH ITS APPURTENAN- noble George duke of Marl-
CES IN THE COUNTY OF borough, farmer of the Right
OXFORD. Reverend Father in God Charles

Richard lord bishop of Winchester, there holden on the . . . day
of . . . in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and
forty by James Westell esq. deputy steward of the said manor.

The homage (to wit)

A. B.

C. D.

E. F. (sworn)

At this court came A. B., a customary tenant of the said manor, and in open court, in presence of the homage aforesaid, in consideration of the sum of £ . . . , surrendered into the hands of the lord of the said manor, by the hands and acceptance of his said deputy steward, by the rod, according to the custom of the said manor, one cottage &c. (parcel). To the use and behoof of C. D. of &c. &c. and his heirs for ever, according to the custom of the said manor by pledges; and the said C. D., being present here in court, prayed to be admitted tenant to the same premises with the appurtenances. To WHOM the lord of the said manor, by his said deputy steward, hath given seized thereof by the rod TO HAVE AND TO HOLD, the same premises with the appurtenances, unto the said C. D. and his heirs for ever, according to the custom of the said manor, by and under all the ancient rents, customs, and services thereof due and of right accustomed to be paid, done, and performed. And the said C. D. is admitted tenant thereunto, but his fealty is respited until &c.

Fines are paid on admission, which are certain, and appear on the margins of the rolls. They are trifling in amount, and irregular in respect of the value of the property, usually two shillings an acre, and about one shilling on a house or cottage, and even where house or other property becomes of large value, the fines continue the same. Heriots are rare, but in some cases found charged like the fines in the margin of the rolls, and then paid on admission of the heir. They are also fixed like the fines, and run from 2 to 3 or 5 guineas, according to the size or value of the property.

The fees of the court are also fixed and certain, and payable to the steward on surrenders, admissions, presentments &c.

The steward of the manor is called the Sub-seneschal; and in one of the old books there is this memorandum:

"There ys of Sarte land in the tything of Haylley 1488 akers, and of Customary 20 yard-land.

There ys of Sarte land in the Tything of Curbridge 70 akers; and of customary 30 yard-land.

There ys of Demaine land in the Tithing of Curbridge 118 akers.

There ys of Sarte land in the tithing of Crawley 22 akers and 3 roodes and of Purpastre 2 akers and 3 roodes and of Customary yard-land 10 yard-landes and a half.

The summe of the whole rent of the Sart lands and Customary lands and Demayne Lands and Perpaster of the lordshippe of Witney ys lxxi *li.* 3*s.*

So there ys over the knowledge-money *vli. iis. vii.*"

At the time of the Commonwealth the possession of Witney manor was of course taken out of the hands of the bishops of Winchester. It is not necessary to trace the republican proceedings minutely, but in 1651 we find the Hon. Wm Lenthall holding the manor; in 1658 he is styled the Rt Hon. Wm lord Lenthall. In 1670 occurs the name of Henry lord Cornbury; and soon afterwards, of Henry earl of Clarendon, and Laurence earl of Rochester, as lessees under the bishop.

The courts of the manor are held at the Mount-House and at Staple Hall; probably the latter place has been introduced merely

for the convenience of an inn to supply with refreshment the various parties who attend the court: there do not appear to be traces of its having any other connection with the manor.

In some old extracts about Witney I have noticed the remark that in the year 1171 bishop Blois gave the manor to his new foundation of St Cross at Winchester, but have not met with any authority for this fact.

§ 10. THE PARISH CHURCH.

The parish church of WITNEY is a most spacious building situated at the southern extremity of the town, in the township of Curbridge, one of the hamlets of the parish of Witney, and is seen with great advantage from the church green. It forms also a very elegant object when seen from the neighbouring hills in the general view of the town.

The elementary form of the building is that of the Latin cross, and it consists of a nave, chancel, north and south transepts, which are peculiar in their design, each having an aisle on its western side. The nave, also, has north and south aisles, and at the north-eastern end of the building there is a private chapel or chantry belonging to the Wenmaus, who formerly resided in the neighbourhood.

Commencing our survey of the exterior at the north doorway, we will make a circuit of the church, jotting down a few notes, antiquarian and architectural.

The north doorway faces the town, and, from its position, forms the usual entrance. It is the oldest part of the church, being built in the Norman style of architecture, and consisting of a semicircular arch supported on short columns surmounted by capitals characteristic of the period, apparently about the commencement of the 12th century. The original head of the arch has been removed and replaced by a substantial but clumsy piece of modern masonry. A beak ornament, probably from the mouldings of the original arch, may be seen, imbedded in the plaster, on the west wall of the nave. Over the door is a vacant canopied niche: similar niches occur in various parts of the north side.

Within the doorway is an arch of the same style and date—between these arches is a porch with a stone bench on either side. Over the porch is a small room containing a chimney, and having an opening into the church.

Proceeding to the left, we come to the aisle of the north transept, lighted by a decorated window.

Adjoining this aisle, is the transept itself, which was apparently commenced in the 13th, enlarged in the 14th (when probably its aisle was added), and again altered in the 15th century; at least, we may so conclude from the forms and proportions of the arches, buttresses, mouldings, &c.; those nearest the tower being in the early English style (prevalent in the 13th century), those more distant in the decorated style (in vogue in the 14th century), and the clerestory (evidently added at the time of the substitution of the low for the high-pitched roof) in the perpendicular style. Again, an original lancet-shaped early English window has been displaced by one in the perpendicular style. The north window of this transept is remarkable for its elegant tracery, and is engraved in some architectural works.

We next come to the chancel, which, with the exception of one or two alterations, is in the Early English style of the 13th century.

At the junction of the Chancel with the South Transept, is the entrance to the belfry.

The south transept, like the north, was originally early English, a few lancet windows still remaining, but, like the northern transept, has been heightened by a clerestory, and also extended; the additions being in the perpendicular style, of the 15th and beginning of the 16th centuries. On the east wall, near its Southern extremity, are traces of a highpitched roof surmounting an equilateral arch, pointing out the former situation of a chantry, which, after being for many years used as the residence of the sexton, was entirely removed in the year 1820.

The aisle on the west side of this transept was, most likely, built at the period of the above mentioned additions to this part

of the church, and presents fine specimens of the late perpendicular or Tudor style, which obtained during the reigns of the Tudor family.

The nave and its aisles are also characterized by this style of architecture. The west doorway of the nave and the window above it, are worthy of particular attention; the latter was judiciously restored, under Mr. DERRICK's superintendence, a few years since, and presents to the eye a peculiar style of tracery, evidently of a late period, and partaking somewhat of the Elizabethan character of moulding, but, nevertheless, very beautiful and imposing.

The WENMAN'S AISLE is attached to the north aisle of the nave. It is a small building, lighted by two fine decorated windows (14th century) and two modern imitations, of the debased style of architecture. This chapel communicates with the churchyard by a doorway surmounted by an ogee arch, ornamented by ballflowers and crockets and terminated by a finial.

The tower, with its fine steeple, is, as is usual in churches of this form, at the intersection of the nave, chancel, and transepts. It is of the early English style, and is surmounted by a spire, flanked by four pinnacles, of the same date; the proportions of the whole being universally admired.

In the *Interior* of the church we find,—in the chancel a fine altar-piece, representing Moses displaying the tables of stone with the decalogue, behind which is a *reredos* in the style of the 17th century, handsomely carved, but not in keeping with the surrounding architecture. There is also an ancient piscina, together with some remains of the stone sedilia for the priest and deacons in celebrating mass. The painter of the altar-piece is unknown, but a name may be seen in the lower left corner, which belongs not to the artist, but to a person who was a few years since employed to clean the picture. On the north side of the altar-piece is a large flattened decorated ogee arch, containing at its east side a small double arch, one compartment of which forms the piscina, the other an ambrie or locker. At the west side is another smaller arch

surmounting a credence table. Between the two, a modern monument has been inserted, which has, probably, taken the place of some more ancient decoration.

The corbels in the north transept are formed of large full length draped figures, but are much defaced. Under the north window of the transept are two monuments in elegant decorated niches, embellished with foliated ogee arches ; they respectively contain a male and female figure, but the names of the persons interred are unknown, and they furnish no information which will enable us to assign their date. "But I am strongly inclined," says Mr Symons in his MS. Collections III, 318, "to imagine that they are of the reign of one of the Edwards, probably of Edward the First ; and that they had originally been placed in the niches underneath. I conjecture that the floor has been raised, and that they were then moved to their present position, which was the original termination of the window. This was perhaps done when the window was shortened and filled up with open tracery in a debased style, which with the roof I am inclined to assign to the commencement of the reign of Hen. VIII, that is, about 1510. In the same transept is a monument to HENRY BOX, who founded the free-school in the town ; it bears date 1662.

In a gallery erected at the end of the nave is a good organ given by DOCTOR LEVERETT.

WENMAN'S AISLE, (now used as an Infant School), communicates with the north aisle of the nave, from which it is separated by an ugly wooden screen ; it contains several Family Monuments, the oldest being an altar tomb with brass figures inlaid.

Its wooden roof is indifferently painted in resemblance of clouds, red, white, and blue, abundantly interspersed with gilt stars.

The tower is supported, as is usual in cruciform churches, by four arches resting on clustered columns.

The pulpit, of the same date and style as the *rerados*, is of oak, and elaborately carved.

The front is of stone, but apparently of modern date, and by no means ornamental or interesting.

The whole interior is remarkable for its elegant proportions, and were the present high-backed pews and raised floors removed, few country churches would be found, in this respect, to excel that of Witney.

As to any thing like a history of the building we have no source of information but the dates of the various styles of architecture appearing in the edifice.

The north doorway is in the Norman and earliest style in the church. Of course there was, originally, a church to which this porch was attached, probably occupying, to some extent, the situation of the present nave, and consisting of a single aisle. This was a very common form of church, and, was, probably, suited to the requirements of the parish at the time it was built; but population increasing, demanded accommodation. In the 13th century, we imagine, the tower, chancel, and transepts were added; the latter, however, not being so large as at present.—The original church would thus form the nave.

In the following century (14th), the north transept was lengthened and an aisle added to its western side. From remains in the interior, we may suppose this aisle to have been a chantry or private chapel, and that it had a separate altar, with its various appurtenances. At this period also WENMAN'S AISLE was added to the nave.

Again, in the 15th century the original Norman building appears to have been remodelled, (with the exception of the porch,) and the present perpendicular nave and its aisles built in its stead.

At the same time the south transept underwent great alterations; its length was increased and an aisle added to its west side, as was done in the preceding century to the north transept, and the chantry before mentioned was now, probably, added to its eastern side. At this period also, all the roofs of the church were reduced from a high to a low pitch, the walls of the transepts being raised and perforated with windows, forming clerestories.

I conclude this general notice of the church with an extract of a

letter from Mr Langford, whose researches into the past history of this town have served to clear up many interesting points, and reflect great credit upon their author.

LONDON, *Oct.* 19, 1851.

My guesses at the ancient ecclesiastical condition of Witney are rather conjectural, though not without probability. The following considerations are at your service.

It is a known fact that almost all Saxon towns had several churches, for example Wallingford is said to have had 14, of which only 10 or 11 can be made out, and only 3 remain. Dorchester contained several, of which not a trace remains. And tradition affirms that in Stanlake and its neighbourhood there were 17, probably including the townships of Old and New Shifford, Brighthampton and the two Brittentons. (The annual custom of reading a "gospel" in the vaults of one of the inns at Stanlake may point out the crypt of one of the number.)

There is reason therefore to suppose that a town like Witney, still flourishing when Shifford was in ruins, was supplied with several churches.

The term "parish" in early times rather implied the neighbourhood of a church, than an actual boundary. While in the modern sense of the term it is often made to include a whole manor and hamlets, irrespective of the ancient parishes. The fact of Witney being a rectory, a vicarage, and a chapelry, each with a priest, as is proved by the Valor Ecclesiasticus of K. Henry VIII, goes far to strengthen the conjecture, that like other considerable manor towns, it had formerly more than one church.

The present market place and church green were open on the eastern side to the ramparts, and the principal street was Corn street. The usual cross way was formed by Duck Alley and the alley leading to Buck lane and the mills. At that point the street widens towards the west, and forms the centre and summit of the hill on which the old town stood. The name of Corn Street has its origin in the pitched Corn Market of those times, and it is not likely that such a spot should be without a church.

Near to churches were usually the sites of Inns or Hostelries, and the sign of "The Bell" was most readily suggested by the curfew bell of a contiguous parish church. The ancient Bell here in Corn Street leads us again to the same spot, in search of an oratory and a belfry.

Immediately adjoining to Duck Alley was an old house (now removed) in which were some traces of ancient ecclesiastical architecture. This house was the property of the Bailiffs and may therefore possibly indicate the very site of an old Town church. The manor court-rolls might throw some light on this subject if examined. (The house in the middle row, for many years in my father's possession, is described in the rolls as "The Church House." Might not this also be the site of an ancient church?)

It may be remarked also that the ancient parish ways from Hailey and Curbridge led into Corn Street, the former by the Alley near to Mr Collier's Blanket Manufactory, by which road all funerals passed, prior to the erection of Hailey Chapel; and the latter by a paved way from the edge of the rampart towards Burwell, into the Crofts lane. A part of this ancient paved road, and traces of the rest are still in existence.

Let us add likewise, that the mount was a strongly fortified place, described as "The palace of the Bishop of Winchester," and the present church and rectory were included within the circuit of its ditch and Vallum. The rectangle thus enclosed was therefore probably a peculiar or extraparochial place, and it still is excluded by the boundary of the present parish and township of Witney.

Owing to the want of details respecting the "*Burgus de Witteneye*" in the "*Rotuli Hundredorum*" of K. Hen. III, we are deprived of many interesting particulars of its ancient state, while in the case of some towns these rolls present a complete list of streets, lanes, houses, mills, and other properties. But as the barony of the whole manor, with the Borough of Witney, and the hamlets, (excepting that of Carswell or Caswell, which was held of the king in chief,) belonged to the lordship of the Bishop of Winchester; therefore the royal taxes were levied upon him in gross; and, if any particulars are extant, they would probably be found in the archives of the bishopric.

From what little is known of the state of the Saxon churches in this country, we cannot imagine much resemblance between them and those of the middle ages, when the popes of Rome and the kings of England levied taxes at their will upon the goods and possessions of the clergy.

§ 11. PATRONS, RECTORS, VICARS.—RECTORY OF WITNEY &c.

It has been remarked, in the last section, that the living of Witney is both a rectory and a vicarage. This peculiarity is not confined to Witney; for it occurs in numerous other parishes all over England; but it is sufficiently rare to require that it should be not passed over without notice, and may lead many readers, who are not fully acquainted with the old church system, to ask what is the difference between a rectory and a vicarage, and to what circumstances the distinction owes its origin. The following observations therefore will not be thought out of place.

Those persons who first gave lands or tithes to a church, were deemed the Patrons of that church, and they and their successors presented the Parson or Rector. Many of these patrons, sensible that they were only trustees of presentation, and thinking themselves often not so well qualified to judge of proper ministers as religious societies, assigned over this right to some fraternity.

These religious societies, afterwards, consulting their own private interest, more than their honour or conscience, contrived, upon some pretence or other, to beg or buy licenses from the pope, to usurp the estate of which they were originally only guardians, and to apply the revenues for ever to their own use, or perhaps, if deterred by conscience from such wholesale plunder, they, nevertheless, reserved to themselves a large portion of the revenues accruing from the benefice in question. Thus the religious society now combined in itself two characters, and was at the same time both Rector and Patron of the same church. But if the convent possessed of this species of property, happened to be all monks or laymen (no unusual circumstance in those days), they were obliged to employ a secular priest to perform the service of the church, and this led to the introduction of another official personage, not known to the church in her earlier and better days. The priest chosen to represent the monastic Rector, was named VICAR, i. e. *vicarius* deputy, and he derived his income from an arrangement made between him and the religious house which he

represented. The rectorial land or tithes were appropriated for ever to the convent, and their deputy appointed to receive the smaller kind of tithes, with the use of part of the rectorial house, or (more commonly) a separate residence, together with some other emoluments, according to the directions of the bishop or the pope. This deputy or Vicar, was not removeable by the Society which had appointed him.

There is another species of incumbent, distinct from the two former, but partaking more of the nature of a rector. This is the perpetual Curate, who derives his income, not from tithes at all, but generally from some fixed sums of money, issuing out of lands, the funds, Queen Anne's bounty, or attached as a rent-charge to some real property in the parish to which it belongs or elsewhere. It may be added that a fourth kind of perpetual incumbency has been created of late years by the erection of district chapels and other places of worship in the neighbourhood of London and other populous places. The clergymen, appointed to these, generally pass by the more simple title of ministers, and derive their incomes from pew-rents, money in the funds, surplice fees, and various other sources.

According to this view, the office of Rector is more ancient than that of Vicar in the English church: but it is hard to fix the time when that of vicar was first introduced. Tithes were certainly paid before the Conquest, but so little is said about them that we cannot say with certainty whether they then formed the principal part or were merely one item among others of the priest's income. In Domesday Book they are mentioned sometimes, but not often. The monks were too cunning not to take an early opportunity of appropriating them to themselves. In the case of Britton and Ward [See Palmer's Reports 114], Mr Noy says that vicarages are much earlier than the reign of king John, and that there are many such in Oxfordshire. In the fourth year of Henry the Second a vicarage was created by pope Alexander the Third, and the successor of the parson could not

remove the vicar, because he was a perpetual vicar, *DECRET. lib. I de Officio Vicarii, lit. 13.* In the second year of Henry III, a fine was levied of a parsonage, except the advowson of the vicarage, which proves that vicarages then existed. A great part of these appropriations were made in the time of Henry III, about the year 1259, when the practise of appropriating was become so frequent that the nobility made a public remonstrance against it to pope Alexander IV. In the 50th year of Edward III, A. D. 1376, a petition was presented to parliament, setting forth that the cells of the foreign priories, by reason of their appropriations, did so devour the salaries due to the parish-priests and curates, and so neglect the divine service in every parish, that they did more damage to holy church than all the Jews and Saracens in the world. Such complaints were frequently made in succeeding ages, and the council of Trent did something towards remedying the evil.

At the time of the Reformation, about A. D. 1580, a plain man, Henry Brinklow, (under the title of Roderic Mors) a merchant of London, addressed a complaint to both houses, that most part of all the best parsonages and vicarages were appropriate. "It was amiss," saith he, "that monks should have parsonages in their hands, and deal but the 20th part thereof to the poor, and preach but once a year." The Reformation would have been the proper time for settling these abuses, if hurry, or perhaps self-interest, had not prevented it. In the beginning of Philip and Mary's reign, the Lord Legate, Cardinal Pole, recommended, and some steps were taken, to dispose of the rectories inappropriate, for the benefit of incumbents and vicars : but this act of the 2nd and 3rd of Philip and Mary was repealed in the 1st of Elizabeth, and the rectories, tithes &c. given to the crown, as they were held before the time of queen Mary.

Since that time nothing has been done by public authority towards making a proper provision for vicars and curates out of rectories, except the 29th of Charles II, for confirming and per-

petuating augmentations made by ecclesiastical persons of small vicarages and curacies.

Archbishop Land procured of king Charles to give all impropriations remaining in the crown within the realm of Ireland to that church. And he farther projected, if he lived to see the repairs of St Paul's nearly finished, to move his majesty for the like grant from the high commission for buying up impropriations, and that he hoped to buy two in the year at least.

In the year 1649, the committee of the forfeited estates of delinquents, out of such estates, and out of the dissolved bishoprics, and deans and chapters, frequently gave money to good purposes, such as mending roads, repairing churches, and making a competent addition to very many livings.*

The living of Witney is both a rectory and a vicarage: the former valued, in the king's books, at £47. 9s. 4d., the latter at £9. 12s. 6d. They were united, in the ninth year of Charles I, into one benefice, by the name of the rectory of Witney; but all dues and fees are reserved as if they were still separate. The bishop of Winchester is the patron by virtue of his manorial rights and he has always exempted the patronage from the lease, by which he has granted the rest of the manor.

The emoluments of the living of Witney are very considerable, amounting to the large sum of £1800. 0. 0. from tithes, besides the rental of 124 acres of glebe land. The Act of Parliament, 6th of Victoria, for the commutation of tithe came into effect in the year 1839, when the several parishes were assessed as follows:

1. WITNEY TOWNSHIP, consisting of 188 acres 3 roods and 10 perches; namely

Arable, garden, &c.	-	-	114	1	7
Grass	-	-	57	0	33

* See Nash's Worcestershire, v. II, p. 473. Kennet's Parochial Antiquities, Ducange's Gloss. ad voces APPROPRI. et Vicarii. Father Paul of Benefices, ch. xiv. Blackstone's Commentaries and Sullivan's Law Lectures.

Waste, church green &c.	-	4	1	26
Roads	-	9	0	4
Water, river Windrush &c.	-	2	1	13
Glebe	-	1	2	7
	TOTAL	188	3	10
Assessed for tithes at £44 12 0				

2. HAILEY, containing 2827 acres 0 roods and 14 perches :

Arable &c.	-	1808	0	31
Grass	-	696	2	1
Wood	-	136	3	5
Common	-	78	2	5
Roads	-	103	1	1
Water	-	3	3	11
	TOTAL	2827	0	14
Assessed for tithes at £780 0 0				

3. CRAWLEY, containing 1116 acres 1 rood and 30 perches :

Arable	-	504	2	33
Grass	-	74	2	11
Wood	-	409	1	37
Common	-	106	1	38
Roads	-	17	0	12
Water	-	4	0	19
	TOTAL	1116	1	30
Assessed, for tithes, at £205 0 7				

4. CURBRIDGE, containing 3076 acres, 1 rood, and 16 perches ; of which 2812 acres 1 rood and 26 perches are subject to the payment of tithe ; 139 1 35 are tithe free : and 124 1 35 are glebe :

Ploughed land	-	1848	2	18
Grass	-	909	0	23
Wood	-	10	0	24
Roads	-	28	2	22
Water	-	15	1	23
Common	-	-	1	36

Tithe-free) of which 54 3 13 are ploughed,			
and 84 2 22 are grass)	-	139	1 35
Glebe	-	124	1 35
TOTAL		3976	1 16
Assessed, for tithes, at £ 715 0 0, of which £ 30 is for			
the Glebe land.			

§. 11. THE CHURCH-BELLS.

In the belfry of the parish-church is a fine peal of eight bells the oldest of which bears the date 1660, the others are all much later. The only information which I can supply about their history, is to be gathered from the inscriptions upon them.

1. Augustine Batt, Thomas Sanders - - 1765
2. Prosperity to the Church of England - - 1755
3. May the Church for ever flourish - - 1761
4. Anthony Geeves, Arthur Brooks, Wm Wearing,
Philip Horn Churchwardens : Henry Bagley
made me January the first - - - 1731
5. Henry Dorne, Michael Dolley Churchwardens 1765
6. Prosperity to this parish and the Trade thereof 1755
7. William Smith, William Tanner - - 1660
8. I to the Church the living call
And to the grave I summon all
J. N. Lawrance, Hen. Salmon, churchwardens 1815
J. Mears London Fecit. - - - 1815

§. 12. THE PARSONAGE.

On the western side of the church and within 20 or 30 yards of the west window, stands the parsonage house, a large and imposing building, erected by Dr Friend, a former Rector of Witney, in compensation, as he has expressed it in an inscription, for the disadvantages of his long-continued non-residence during his incumbency. The house is built in the modern style, and furnishes every accommodation for a large family.

But the antiquarian's attention will be attracted by the small sketch given in this volume, of a low Gothic building called the Rectory in the 12th century. This antiquated and modest struc-

Thy mercy
lady helpe

Thy mercy
lady helpe

Thy mercy
lady helpe

Thy mercy
lady helpe



pray for the soule of willm isenman the
which departed out of this present life
the XXX day of August in the yere of our
lord m^c v^c xxj on whose soule thu haue mercy



THE RECTORY IN THE XIIIth CENTURY —



Old House in Duck Alley.



ture was still in existence not many years ago, and to drawings taken before its destruction we owe all that is now known about it.

§. 13. THE MOUNT-HOUSE.

In the modern house which passes under this name, are still to be seen massive foundations, narrow windows, and remnants of arches, shewing that a larger edifice once stood upon the spot. The inequality of the ground in a circuit round it, and a high terrace extending for some distance on the top of a wall once embattled, shows that the place was of great strength, and it is supposed by sound antiquaries, to have been the palace or manor-house of the bishops of Winchester. Little or nothing of its former grandeur still survives.

§. 14. THE MARKET, OR BUTTER CROSS.

This is a low building standing on round pillars; and has often been supposed to be an object of great antiquity. This, however, is not the case: it was erected by William Blake esq. of Cogges, in the year 1683, and was repaired, by a subscription among the townspeople, in 1811. It is said that a statue of the Virgin Mary once stood upon the spot.

§. 15. THE INFANT SCHOOL.

This institution owes its existence to the praiseworthy zeal of the present rector, the Reverend Charles Jerram, by whose exertions it was founded in 1836, and who still contributes mainly to its support. It is not easy to describe the good which results from this and other similar schools, to the working classes whose children are here taken care of whilst their parents are at work. For the use of the Witney Infant school, the Wenman's aisle has been set apart, and separated by a partition from the rest of the church. There is accommodation for 120 children, but the number of those who attend, varies according to the season of the year: being about 70 on the average. The present mistress is Miss Mountford, to whose disinterested labours are to be ascribed the good results which daily flow from the institution.

SONG OF THE INFANT SCHOOL CHILDREN.

This is the Witney Infant School,
 Where we are taught the happy rule,
 To love our God and parents kind,
 And leave all useless things behind.
 But we must come with faces clean,
 Neat clothes—all whole—fit to be seen :
 And only a penny we do pay
 Per week for learning every day.
 Then let us all attend to time,
 Be there before, or just at *nine* :
 And in the afternoon so true
 Be always in the School at two.
 Now we will all attention pay
 To all that our kind teachers say,
 And pray that God may bless our school,
 Its friends and every infant rule.

§. 16. THE NATIONAL SCHOOLS.

The Witney National Schools were first set on foot at a numerous and very respectable meeting held at the Blanket Hall, in Witney, on the 15th May 1813 : Colonel the Right Hon. Lord Francis Spencer in the chair.

On this occasion a society was formed, entitled “The society for promoting the instruction of the poor in the town and neighbourhood of Witney, according to the general plan of the National Society.”

Another resolution, moved by Lieutenant Colonel Weyland, and passed unanimously, was the following : “That, considering the peculiar circumstances of the population of Witney and its neighbourhood, the schools formed by this society shall be open on Sundays, as well as other days, to poor children of all sects and denominations, who will conform to the rules of instruction therein established ; that the children of Churchmen shall regularly attend divine service in the Parish church ; and those of dissenters either

at the parish church; or at some other legally authorised place of public worship."

Other resolutions were passed appointing directors and managers, and requesting his grace the duke of Marlborough to accept the office of president of the society, for the year ensuing.

The vice-presidents appointed were—The resident minister of Witney (at that time The Rev. John Hyde M. A.) The Right Hon. Lord Francis Spencer, The Earl of Abingdon, The Lord Bishop of Winchester, The Hon. Thomas Parker, The Rev. Robert Barnard (at that time Rector though not in residence), The Earl of Harcourt, George Frederick Stratton Esq., The Rev. George Richards, John Stratton Esq., Sir Felix Agar, W. E. Taunton Junr Esq., John Backshell Esq., John Weyland Junr Esq.

Twelve of the most respectable inhabitants of the town were appointed directors, and Edward Batt Esq., was appointed treasurer, and Mr Isaac Lawrance, Secretary.

After several preliminary meetings, the directors purchased premises, originally a malt house, and several cottages, and converted them into schools at an expense of nearly £400. It is much to be regretted that this step was taken, instead of building suitable and commodious school-rooms in a central part of the town, commensurate with its population and importance. The distinguished patronage under which the schools were originally founded would have justified the directors in building school-rooms which would have been an ornament to the town; and doubtless their efforts would have been liberally seconded with ample pecuniary resources.

The schools have latterly been placed under Government inspection, and trained teachers appointed. Pupil teachers have also been added, two for each school, whose duties consist in assisting the master and mistress during school hours. The pupil teachers are apprenticed to the master and mistress respectively for a period of 5 years, and receive evening instruction 5 days in the week. Should their conduct and improvement be satisfactory to her Majesty's

INSPECTOR & SCHOOL. THEY WILL HAVE BE INCREASED IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER.—BY 10 IN THE 1711—BY 10 IN THE 1721, 1731, 1741, 1751, 1761, 1771, 1781, 1791, 1801, 1811, 1821, 1831, 1841, 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891, 1901, 1911, 1921, 1931, 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2001. THE NUMBER OF PUPILS HAS BEEN INCREASED TO 200.—[21] BOYS AND 10 GIRLS. THE SCHOOL IS SITUATED NEAR THE VINEYARD IN THE EAST END OF THE TOWN.

THE FOUNDER'S SCHOOL.

THE FOUNDER'S SCHOOL IN WIMBORNE WAS FOUNDED BY HENRY VIII. KING OF ENGLAND IN THE YEAR 1541: AND THE FOUNDER WAS OBLIGED TO IN AN OBLIGATION, A PART OF WHICH WAS TO BE IN THE SERVICE OF THE WORK [22] & [23].

THE FOUNDER'S SCHOOL IS A BUILDING, WHICH, TOGETHER WITH THE CHURCH AND A HOUSE OF MONASTERY IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH, WERE BUILT BY THE KING. BUT HE FROM THE PARISH OF WIMBORNE. THERE IS AN AVENUE OF TREES LEADING TO THE SCHOOL, BUT A FATHER & MOTHER HOUSE. BY THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE FOUNDER THERE IS A SMALL CHURCH WITH PULPIT IN THE SCHOOL-HOUSE, AND AN AVENUE OF TREES LEADING TO THE CHURCH. THE FOUNDER & MASTER OF THE SCHOOL.

THERE ARE NO FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, OR OTHER UNIVERSITY ARRANGEMENTS BELONGING TO THIS SCHOOL.

THE GOVERNORS ARE THE FOUR VASSALS OF THE BISHOP'S COMPANY FOR THE TIME BEING. THE FOUNDER AND TWO SENIOR FELLOWS OF WIMBORNE COLLEGE. THERE ARE THE TOWN.

THE REVENUES OF THE SCHOOL ARE DERIVED FROM A RENT-CHARGE, GRANTED IN THE ACT OF PARLIAMENT IN THE 1541 & 1542, ISSUING OUT OF CERTAIN LANDS IN THE PARISH OF WIMBORNE. THE INCOME OF THE SCHOOL APPEARS IN PRESENT IN AMOUNT TO SIXTY GUINEAS, WHICH IS SPENT IN THE FOLLOWING MANNER:

Head-master	£50	Travelling money	£57
Teacher	10	House-allowance for the visitors	£2
Travelling-Master	10	Entertainment of visitors	1
The poor of Wimborne	1	Expenses	3

£57

TOTAL £63

THERE IS, IN THE SCHOOL-HOUSE, AND THE PROPERTY OF THE SCHOOL, A

small but excellent collection of books, by no means adapted for the purposes of such an institution, but some of them very valuable, as for instance Walton's Polyglott bible, Eustathius's commentary on Homer, and others. The statutes of the school, also, are kept fairly copied out on vellum. These by the original foundation, were first enacted by Mary Box the wife of the testator : but additional orders have since been made. The latest statutes, bearing date 1805, are the following :

“ It is limited and ordained that in future the said school shall be free for the teaching of the Latin, Greek, and Hebrew tongues, or any of them, to thirty scholars, whereof all such children, whose parents now do or hereafter shall, at the time of their birth, inhabit the town of Witney—respect in the choice being had as to ten of such thirty scholars to the children of such of the poor inhabitants of Witney, as are not assessed for the maintenance of the poor—shall have the priority of admission as free scholars into the said school for ever.

And if it shall happen at any time or times hereafter, that the children aforesaid shall not amount to the number assigned, that then it shall be lawful for the master, by and with the approbation of the visitors, to admit and receive into the freedom of the said school, the children that now are, or hereafter shall be born of such parents which shall then inhabit within the parish of the town of Witney, until the said number of thirty be completed : provided that the children born in Witney, together with the issue of Ralph Box, William Hill, and Edward Box, and the issue male of the whole blood of the founder, be not herein in any kind debarred of the privileges intended them by the 13th statute of the said school, and which said issue of the said founder shall, according to the said 13th statute, be allowed by the master the best and most convenient chamber or chambers for their lodging, in the house belonging to the said school.

ITEM : It is ordained that every scholar, who shall be of the foundation of the said school, and whose parents are inhabitants of the said town of Witney, assessed to the poor, and who

shall not be the issue of Ralph Box, William Hill, or Edward Box aforesaid, or the issue of the whole blood of the founder aforesaid shall pay to the master, besides the fee of 2s. 6d. for admission pursuant to the 14th statute of the said school the sum of £1. 1s. 0d. quarterly.

And that every scholar, who shall be of the foundation of the said school, and whose parents are inhabitants of the said town of Witney, and assessed to the poor, and who shall not be the issue of Ralph Box, William Hill, and Edward Box as aforesaid, or the issue of the whole blood of the founder aforesaid, that shall be instructed in writing and casting accounts; under the 24th statute of the said school shall pay unto the writing master the sum of five shillings quarterly, instead of the sum of one shilling ordered to be paid by the said 24th statute, and every other scholar of the said school the sum of ten shillings quarterly, so long as the said writing master shall teach or instruct the said school or scholars therein."

The Free-school of Witney, towards the beginning of the last half century, was the subject of much acrimonious dispute, in various ways, among the inhabitants. These have long since happily ended, and are only to be remembered as having given birth to certain pamphlets, that are now looked on as literary curiosities. The names of them are here given.

1. "The contract violated; or, the hasty marriage. By John Goole, M. A. master of the free school of Witney, and vicar of Eynsham, in the county of Oxford. N. D. 8vo." It relates to a clandestine marriage between the author and Dr Hudson's daughter.

2. "The present state of the free-school at Witney, in Oxfordshire &c."

3. "An answer to a scandalous pamphlet, entitled The present state of the free-school at Witney, in Oxfordshire, &c. By John Goole, A. M. vicar of Eynsham, and master of the free-school of Witney in the county of Oxford. Oxf. 1721." 8vo.

4. "Remarks upon Mr Goole's answer to the present state of the

free-school at Witney in Oxfordshire. By R. Collier. London, 1721." 8vo.

§ 18. BOROUGH OF WITNEY—OLD SEAL.

It appears, from the various public records published by the Record Commissioners and others, that Witney was once a borough-town, and returned 2 members to parliament.

The town was also once divided into six wards or tithings called 1. Pater-noster Row ; 2 West Ward ; 3. Middle Ward ; 4. Ward below bridge—*infra pontem* ; 5. East Ward ; and 6. North Ward. For each of these wards was appointed a wardman :* their names appear for the first time in 1654, when also we have notice of a Jury (generally consisting of from 16 to 20 men,) 2 bailiffs and 2 constables. They also appointed 2 leather-sealers (*scrutatores et obsignatores corii*), 2 ale-tasters (1655), 2 fish and flesh tasters (*carnarii et carnifices* 1661) and 2 clerks of the market.

In a manuscript preserved in the British Museum [Harl. 1095] is the following notice of an old Witney seal, of which a print will be found in this volume.

"Visitation of Oxfordshire made 1574 by Richard Lee gent. alias Portcullis Marshall to Clarencieux king of Arms, &c.—

"WITNEY. This is the auncient seal belonging and appertaining to the Towne and Borough of Witney in the County of Oxford, and at this present visitation was William Elmes (*or* Elmer) and Richard Humphreys Bayleifes of the said Towne and Borough, William Harris and Robert Solye constables, William Mayor Sergeant, George Lason, Robert Yeomans, William Hunte, David Horne, William Hodson, wardsmen, ANNO DOMINI 1574, in the xvith yere of Her Majesties Raigne."

§ 19. THE COLLEGE AND STAPLE HALL.

It may appear strange to some of my readers that two buildings so apparently unlike in every respect as the College, situated on

* In the Gentleman's Magazine for May 1743, p. 261, "four wardsmen and a serjeant."

Witney Green, and Staple Hall, an inn at the furthest end of the town, should be united together as the subject of the same section. The reasons for my doing so are these—and they tell all that I have been able to collect about these two buildings. The former of them is old and ruinous, consisting of a low range of rooms surrounding three sides of a court and still containing a chapel and hall almost entire. It is a tradition that this old building was erected for the use of the Oxford students, during the plague which in former times often prevailed in Oxford and other cities. Many of the colleges were provided with retreats of this kind, in the neighbouring towns and villages. In the *Beauties of Oxfordshire* [p. 267], is the following notice which helps much to illustrate this subject.

“At Garsington a house was built, in a quadrangular form, by Sir Thomas Pope, founder of Trinity College Oxford, for the accommodation of his students when the plague prevailed in the University. They twice took refuge in this building; and, on both occasions, performed the same exercises of learning and devotion as when at College.”

The College belongs to the Society of Corpus Christi College at Oxford, and was no doubt once used by them for a similar purpose.

It is probable that Staple Hall was another of these collegiate offshoots; for that curious old topographer Lambarde, in his long account of Oxford, after speaking of the “Innes” and “Halles,” says, “I have hearde that theare hathe bene dyvers others of this kinde, and it seameth true by the ruynes that yet appear in syghte. I redd in a case (Edw. III) that theare was some tyme a house of learninge called Staple Hall; but wheare it stoade, I have not hytherto learned.” The proximity of Witney to Oxford makes it extremely probable that the present Staple Hall at Witney is the one of which Lambarde speaks.

§ 20. THE BLANKET-MANUFACTORY—BREWERIES—GENERAL TRADE OF WITNEY.

The town of Witney has long been famous for its manufacture

of blankets, * equal, if not superior to any others in the world. In the year 1711, the blanket-weavers of the town, following a notion now long ago exploded, that restrictions protect commerce, obtained from Queen Anne a charter, erecting them into a company, consisting of a Master, Assistants, the number of whom to vary from eight to fourteen, two Wardens, and a Commonalty, of which the number was unlimited, every one whom it might concern, and who was a duly qualified tradesman, having the right to become a member. Immediately after the grant of this charter a body of bye-laws were drawn up, and a variety of oaths instituted, to be sworn by the different persons who should take office in this newly chartered company. The bye-laws, arranged under the head of the officers and subjects to which they refer, are contained in a thin quarto volume and the oaths are engrossed on a large parchment roll similar in dimensions to that in which the original charter of the company is contained. The proceedings of the company are given in four folio volumes called court-books, from the creation of the company almost to the present time. The bye-laws have, it appears, for the convenience of being brought together under one general view, been copied out of these court-books, from the different places, where they are named as having been first enacted.

The entries in the Court Books are of no importance, treating mostly of the admission of members, and fines imposed on those who had offended against the charter. The following specimens of the entries are amply sufficient to give the reader an idea of their general nature.

* In 1339, king Edward the Third issued orders to the mayor and bailiffs of Bristol respecting one Thomas Blanket, who set up looms there for weaving woollen fabrics. Probably blankets have derived their name from him. As regards Witney, the author has had a significant hint given him that blankets form but a fourth part of the reputation of this town. An old proverb makes it to be famous for four B's, Beauty, bread, beer and blankets. May it long retain its superiority in four such essential elements of man's happiness!

"LIST OF THE ORIGINAL COURT.

Simon earl of Harcourt *High Steward*—John White *Master*—Thos Early—Thos Johnsons—Edw. Bird—Mich. Baughin—Wm Rogers—Wm Jones—Wm Townsend—Thos Boulton—John Baker—Solomon Davis—Robert Collier—John Cowell—Titus May—*Wardens*: Wm Baughin—John Cowell.

10 MARCH, 1711 *Imprimis*, at this meeting G. Green a member of this company is fined 5s. for working with his daughter in a loom and at same time refusing to give work to Michael Poulton a Journeyman who demanded it.

At the same meeting Edward Dutton is fined 20s. for making a Stockful of Blanketting or Stuff for Pettycoats 36 yards long and 8-4 and half wide, contrary to the good rules and orders of the company. On his submission and laying own his fines the same is respited to 10s.—

7 OCT. 1812—At this meeting John Shorter a member of the Company is fined 3 several sums of 20s. for working 3 several times in his loom with his apprentice and refusing to employ Journeymen who applied for work. On submission the same was remitted to 10s. At same meeting John Busson is fined 5 several sums of 20s. for making 5 several stockfuls of a longer length than allowed by the bye-laws.

1 FEB., 1714—Mr Thos Early is fined 20s. for making a stockful of coarse middles 2 yards and a half in each Blanket.

17 MARCH 1715—Mr Robt Collier one of the assistants is fined £10 for taking an apprentice before his former apprentice had served 7 years, so that he now had 2 apprentices.

20 MARCH 1720—At this meeting Mr Thos Early and Mr Michael Baughin are fined each 1s. for leaving the court without leave of the master.

5 MAY 1721—At this meeting it was agreed by the whole company that the Feast made by the late master at his going out of office was by direction of the said company: but it is also agreed that no Feast shall at any time hereafter be made for the wives of the members of the Company.

20 OCT. 1730—Bartholomew Lilly is fined 2s. 6d. for putting 2 apprentices to work in the same room: also he is fined 2s. 6d. for permitting his wife to work in the same room with a journeyman. Also Thos Wiggins and William Dutton, two of the commonalty, are fined 2s. each, for that at the last court, they each of them gave vile, scurrilous and *opprobrious* language to the master and assistants.

27 FEB. 1738—Mr Anthony Geeves Master—Wm Bird having called the master a Fool in open court is fined 2s.

18 JULY 1748—No member of this company shall employ any journeyman employed by another master without consent of the latter under penalty of 40 shillings.

14 Nov. 1745—Whereas it was agreed that this company should raise 30 men for the service of his majesty in suppressing the present unnatural rebellion, and it appearing to be agreeable to the government to have the same paid in ready money (to wit) one guinea for each man, it is agreed and ordered that the present master do pay the sum of thirty guineas into the hand of the proper officer and take a receipt in lieu of the 30 men to serve as their quota in the Oxfordshire regiment of foot commanded by the Right Honorable Lord Viscount Harcourt.

1771—That Mr Gray the clerk do immediately take Mr Denning's opinion, what method will be right to take to prosecute John Jones for exercising the mystery of blanket weaving and not being qualified.

1773. 21 DEC.—Mr Jason Shepherd, the present master, is fined 20s. for making one stockful of 6 | 4 blankets which contained one blanket more than permitted by the By-Laws.

1782 —It is unanimously agreed to purchase, erect, and set up an Engine for Rowing Blankets upon the same construction as the company are informed are used at Colchester &c. and that Mr Richard Lardner be empowered to take a stockful of kersey Blankets to Colchester to be rowed by the said Rowing Machine.

1784.—It is unanimously agreed that in future no member of the said company be admitted to bring to the annual feast more than one person except the master for the time being who may invite and bring 20 persons, his friends and Gentlemen of the neighbourhood and each of the Wardens may bring 2 persons."

Not long after the incorporation of the company, a large hall was erected in the lower part of the town, in the style of the early part of the eighteenth century, in which blankets were weighed, measured, and marked, according to the terms of the charter, meetings were held, fines were imposed on all deficiencies, whether of weight measure or mark, and all other business of the company was transacted.

The weaving-trade of Witney has, of course, fluctuated much during the 200 years that it has been established, and its

fluctuations can now with difficulty be ascertained. But it would appear from the following extracts from works published during the last century, that the trade has at all times been very extensive, though at some times much more so than at others. At the same time, when the Hall was erected, the seal of the company, of brass, weighing eleven ounces, and still preserved with the court-books, was, it is to be presumed, manufactured, bearing the coat of arms, belonging to the London Weavers' Company, surmounted by the words *THE BLANKET WEAVERS' SEAL*. The arms, which also appear under the clock on the front of Blanket Hall, are blazoned thus : *Azure* ; on a chevron *argent*, between three leopards' heads, each having a shuttle in its mouth *or*, three roses *gules*, seeded proper. *CREST* a leopard's head crowned with a ducal coronet, and a shuttle as before. *SUPPORTERS* two weeverns ermine, winged *or* membered *gules*. *MOTTO* Weave truth with trust.*

* The reader will excuse me here for introducing a specimen of Witney poetry, as old as 1748, in which this motto is alluded to.

AN ODE TO PEACE.

Downy Peace ! extend thy pinions
 O'er BRITANNIA's drooping isle ;
 Bless our sov'reign's wide dominions,
 Make his faithful subjects smile.
 Banish Faction, change the Tory,
 Make of him an honest Whig ;
 Chase Corruption, stain her glory,
 Shame her sons that look so big.
 Calm the Hero, sooth his anger,
 Stop the murd'ring cannon's roar ,
 Bid the trumpet's solemn clangor
 Kindle martial rage no more,
 Favour commerce, arts and science,
 Sink our taxes, hear our moan !
 Let not GALLIA bid defiance,
 While the seas are all our own.
 Industry to Temp'rance marry,
 That we may WEAVE TRUTH WITH TRUST ;
 Hence let none onr fleeces carry,
 But be to their country just.
 Stop the Smuggler, and the Hawker,
 Who illicit commerce drive ;
 Hang the rogue and midnight walker—

In an old book published about the year 1760, it is stated that there were no less than three thousand persons employed in the weaving trade at Witney. The same authority states that at that time there were "150 looms, 100 of which are almost constantly employed in weaving blankets. Here is also a considerable manufacture of duffils, which are a yard and three quarters wide, and are exported in great quantities to Virginia and New England, for cloathing the American Indians, and are now much used in Great Britain for winter wear. Cuts for hammocks, and tilt-cloths for barge-men, are likewise made in this town, and here are a great many fell-mongers, who dress and stain sheep skins, and make them into breeches and jackets, and sell them at Bampton."

"It is computed, that 100 packs of wool are wrought there in a week. They scour the blankets at the Mills, erected on the river Windrush, whose waters are thought to have a more abstersive, nitrous quality than others. A sort of yellow ochre, and a coarse kind of gritty umber is dug near to the town, of great use to them.—"

"Witney, Dec. 1. 1792. This town and neighbourhood exhibit a high scene of industry; their foreign orders were never so ex-

These are drones that rob the hive.
While we wait thy warm caresses,
Urge us on in loyal ways;
Not in formal trite addresses,
Nor in riot and huzzas.
But in acts of love and duty,
To our KING and to his HEIR;
These confer a real beauty,
And our principles declare.
Mix with reason ev'ry pleasure,
Sparing, hand the giddy bowl;
Deal us liberty by measure,
Lest excess should drown the soul.

WITNEY, Oct. 19, 1748.

CRITO.

The lines occur in an old magazine.

If the writer could rise from his grave after the lapse of a century, he might make many reflections on our present state of things. With the same pious wish for the bettering of the TORY, he might perhaps see the difficulty of making him both HONEST and a WHIG: nor would he discover that liberty had been dealt out to us so fully as to drown our souls.

tensive at this season of the year as at present ; and it is computed that no less a quantity than 80,000lb. of wool is consumed weekly in this place. In fact, the villages, for 14 miles, cannot spin enough for the demand.—”

I subjoin another extract, which enters a little more fully into the details of the manufactory as it was carried on by the grandfathers of those by whom the trade is now conducted :

“Witney is very famous for its woollen manufacture, which consists of what they call kersey-pieces, coarse bear-skins, and blankets. The two first they make for the North American market, vast quantities being sent up the river St Laurence, and also to New-York, Boston, &c. Their finest blankets, which rise in price to three pounds a pair, are exported to Spain and Portugal ; but all of them are first sent to London in broad-wheel waggons, four or five of which go every week. The finest wools they work, come from Herefordshire and Worcestershire, and sell from eight-pence to ten-pence a pound. The coarsest is brought from Lincolnshire ; they call it Day-locks, and purchase it for about four-pence halfpenny a pound : it is used in making the coarse bear-skins. There are about five hundred weavers in this town, who work up seven thousand packs of wool annually. Journeymen in general earn, on an average, from ten to twelve shillings a week, all the year round ; but they work from four in the morning till eight at night. The work is of that nature, that a boy of fourteen years of age earns as much as a man. Boys and girls of seven or eight years of age earn from eighteen to twenty-pence a week by quilling and cornering. Old women of sixty or seventy earn sixpence a day by picking and sorting the wool. A strong woman can earn from ten-pence to a shilling a day by spinning ; and a girl of fourteen, four-pence or five-pence. They weave according to the season ; in winter, kerses and bear-skins ; ready for shipping in the summer, for the river St Laurence ; and in summer, blankets for home consumption, and to supply the markets of Spain and Portugal. The blankets usually purchased at home are about three-and-twenty and four-

and-twenty shillings a pair, ten quarters wide, and twelve long."

One of the stages through which the making of blankets passes is called *Tucking* or *Fulling*. Formerly no clothier was allowed to be his own tucker. Hence this was a distinct trade, and required the apprenticeship of those who followed it.

Tucking-mills were found all over the neighbouring country. There was one at Stanlake, of which the ruins were in existence a few years back.

There was one at least, if not two, at Ducklington. At Witney were Farm Mills at the end of Mill Street, near the Mount, and Woodford or Waterford Mills, now called "Witney Mills."

New Mills were afterwards added. Then followed Crawley, Minster, and Worsham, anciently Wolmaresham, and most probably at the Mills of Swinbrook, Widford, and Burford, especially the last, were stocks for fulling or tucking cloths.

The restrictions which the incorporated body placed on the manufacture of blankets, however they may have been of use in the eighteenth century, have, certainly, since the beginning of the nineteenth, been considered as doing more harm than good; for, though the company still exists, yet it is now forty years since they have ceased to usurp any of their old rights, or to impose fines, as the charter authorised, for a breach of their laws. The old hall, with several appurtenances, was lately disposed of, by sale, to Mr Edward Early, proprietor of one of the present weaving establishments, and the company, though still holding occasional meetings, limit their deliberations, it is shrewdly suspected, to discussing the quality,—not of blankets, but of other matters, which have the effect of preparing them for undisturbed repose, between *any* blankets that may happen to receive them, even if far inferior to those which their own factories can produce.

Among other articles which fell, by sale, into the hands of Mr Early, these deserve to be mentioned; 1st an old bible, given to the company, in 1748, by Mr White, the first master, 2d, a large

painting of Queen Anne, supposed by amateurs to possess considerable merit ; but this is a point, which must be left open for future decision when the picture shall have received a thorough cleaning, and its merits may be brought into a clearer light. This painting was given to the company by Simon Lord Harcourt, some time Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain and second High Steward of the Witney Blanket weaving company. The head of Queen Anne is surrounded by four angels, or other allegorical figures, and the style of colouring is not unlike that adopted by Sir Godfrey Kneller. The third article, that I shall notice, is a silver tankard, which also belonged to the company, but now graces the side-board of Mr Early, and ministers largely to the hospitality for which that board is famous. Happy is it for a land, when the fall of public institutions is lightened by the guiding hand of worthy private citizens, and when from the ashes of a public conflagration there springs up a crop of healthy vegetation to adorn the locality where the parent tree had stood !

Such happiness is in store for Witney. Its blanket manufactories have not yet yielded to the decay which has gradually undermined the company. Six thriving establishments still remain, under the names which I shall here enumerate, and, if possible, perpetuate.

1. The firm of John Early and Co. working the Witney Mills and New Mills.
2. Richard Early : Witney Mills.
3. Edward Early : New Mills and Farm Mills.
4. Horatio Collier : Crawley Mills.
5. Richard Early junior : Worsham Mills.
6. Early Brothers : Blanket Hall.

These six firms consume weekly, in the making of blankets, druggets, girths, mop-yarns, tilts, duffields, and other similar articles, 120 packs of wool, each pack weighing 240 pounds. As blankets vary considerably in weight, i. e. from one pound and a quarter to 28 lbs, per pair, if we take 16lbs as a mean average between these two extremes, and suppose, for the sake of argu-

ment that the whole yearly quantity of wool is consumed in making blankets of that weight, we get the large number of 93, 600 pairs of blankets manufactured every year, the price of which at 14s. per pair, would amount to no less than £65520—a result which shows that the blanket-trade of Witney is still flourishing, though it may, now and then, from temporary causes be exposed to the same fluctuations to which all trades and professions are liable. The number of persons employed at the mills is upwards of eight hundred, comprising men, women and children; and at present these are all employed on the premises of their masters. The wool was formerly given out to be spun by cottagers, some of whom lived at the distance of thirty miles from the town; but this system was completely upset by the introduction of machinery about forty years ago, when large numbers of persons were altogether thrown out of employment, and an opinion set afloat that the prosperity of the whole town had received a shock, from which it would be difficult for it to recover. This opinion, however, seems to be unfounded, for the check which the town has received of late years, may be traced, not to the decay of its staple manufacture, but to the withdrawal of the coaches and other vehicles, as the result of the railway-system before which all other modes of conveyance must, of a necessity, disappear. The thoroughfare from Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hereford, and Wales, to London, once lying through Witney, has of late been transferred to the line of the railway, and three coaches per day, at the utmost, are now the melancholy survivors of the incessant swarm which once added life to the streets of Witney, and put money into the pockets of its numerous horse-keepers, publicans and stable-boys. This cause has certainly, of late years, thrown a partial gloom over the streets of Witney. But there are other trades which have risen in proportion as the prosperity of the hotels and coach proprietary has declined. The breweries of the town have lately attracted the public notice. That of Mr Clinch, in particular, standing on the site of an ancient house, some of the Gothic windows of which are still remaining, is

deservedly celebrated through the country for many miles round.

In short, though Witney is far from being a large or populous town, I do not find that it ever was larger or more populous than it is now, and no inference to the contrary, as far as I have been able to discover, can be drawn from any facts which have come to light respecting its past history.

§ 21. TRADESMEN'S TOKENS.

In a collection of tradesmen's tokens made by the late vicar of Ensham, those struck at Witney appear conspicuous for their number. Though these do not bespeak a trade more extensive than is still carried on, yet, as a curiosity, the names which appear on them may be here added to terminate this brief and imperfect notice of the trade of the town.

Richard Ashfield of Witney clothier.

Thomas Brice of Witney his half-penny.

Richard Dutton clothier Witney his halfpenny.

William Chamberlain in Witney, 1666, his half-penny.

John Gardiner in Witney, his half-penny 1669.

Leonard Goode of Witney 1657.

Andrew Holloway of Witney clothyar 1659.

William Hearn at the White Swan in Witney.

John Jordain of Witney in the county of Oxon.

Peter Katte at the 3 Jibbets in Witney his half-penny, 1670.

John Palmer, 1656.

William and Mary Sanders in Witney their half-penny.

Thomas Ward 1668.

Ralph Werge of Witney, 1653.

Robert Willy senior, his half-penny.

William Fitchett of Witney 1671.

John Young 1655.

§ 22. GAMES AND POPULAR AMUSEMENTS—ACCIDENT AT A PLAY-HOUSE—ANCIENT MYSTERIES—FEASTS—WAKES— WHITSUNTIDE.

Under the head of Games and Popular Amusements there is,

I fear, very little remaining in Witney to attract the notice of those who are interested in such matters. The few remnants of our old Sports and Pastimes are rapidly disappearing, and this is, in my own opinion, a change much to be lamented. The heart of the humblest man or woman was as much made for enjoyment as that of the queen upon her throne ; but what pleasures remain for those whose life is one continued round of slavery and toil,—not that they may become rich and luxurious, but solely that they may procure the necessaries of life ? It is an important consideration whether a great means of promoting good-will between the different ranks of society has not been wholly lost by suffering the old popular meetings to fall into disuse. The Greeks and Romans had their Saturnalia, and Old England once had its joyous holidays, when master met man, no longer as his superior, but as his fellow, his brother—and both, throwing off the cares of business, enjoyed to the full the pleasures of the day, and retired, at evening's close, to rest, invigorated—not disabled—to meet the returning cares and vicissitudes of the morrow. But little of all this now remains : the poorer inhabitant of Witney—I speak not to those who weekly and almost nightly meet round the well-loaded festive board, but to the more humble denizen of that industrious town—he, I say, may ask “ Where now are all the traces of these ancient things ? ” and Echo alone will answer Where ? all but the antiquary, who lives with the past, in the dusty corners of the garret, of the old college library, and wherever else the customs of bygone times are still treasured up in writing. *He* may be allowed to revive for a moment the memory of the past, even though the picture be too highly coloured by his friendly pen. If such be the case, and the description be found to rise above the reality as it once existed, it is a venial error to hallow the past which never can return.

'Tis distance lends enchantment to the view,

And clothes the mountain in its azure hue.

But, to return from this digression, Witney has little to be recorded in the way of sports and pastimes. It would seem that it

never possessed a public theatre for the exhibition of dramatic representations, for so long ago as Feb. 3, 1622, I find in an old register the notice that a comedy was represented at the White Hart Inn, when five persons were killed by the falling in of the floor. I copy the following account of it from the Beauties of Oxfordshire.

In the seventeenth century an accident occurred at Witney which was disastrous in itself, and is especially memorable from the publicity it gained through puritanical misrepresentation. The young and the gay of the town assembled, in innocent merriment, to witness the performance of a dramatic piece. The flooring gave way, and several lives were lost in the general downfall. Instead of sympathy the sufferers met with execration. One John Rowe, of the University of Oxford, and "Lecturer in the towne of Witney," published an account of the occurrence entitled "TRAGI-COMÆDIA; being a brief relation of the strange and wonderful hand of God discovered at Witney, in the Comedy acted there, February 3, where there were some slaine, many hurt, with severall other remarkable passages: together with what was preached in three sermons on that occasion from Rom. i, 18: both which may serve as some check to the growing Atheisme of the present age. By John Rowe of C. C. C. in Oxford, lecturer in the town of Witney. *Oxf.* 1652." The age must indeed be far gone in enthusiasm, which could be influenced by such imbecile ravings as those of Mr Rowe; yet we are told that this publication contributed not a little to the suppression of plays at the period. We learn from the pamphlet that the piece performed was "Mucedorus, the king's sonne of Valentia, and Amandine, the king's daughter of Arragon; with the merry conceits of Mouse, &c." The actors were countrymen, and nearly all from Stanton Harcourt. They acted for pecuniary reward, and had performed their comedy in several adjacent places. Denied the use of the town-hall, they fixed on the White Hart, a principal inn at Witney. At seven o'clock in the evening the drum beat and the trumpet sounded, to announce that all was

ready. Men, women, and children, to the number of three hundred, attended the summons. The theatre of the night was a large apartment, which had been used as a malting-room, having a part of it covered with earth to that purpose. The play had proceeded for about an hour and a half, when a beam gave way; and the flooring sank. The fall was not quick, and the whole went into a room, where there was a shuffleboard, which was broken to pieces. All for a few dreadful moments was silence. At length such cries and groans arose as furnished the declaimer with several very pertinent allusions in his three sermons to *ROM. i, 18*; and it was found that five were "slaine outright." The whole of the persons killed on the spot were children; a woman had her leg broken and underwent amputation. Though these were "awful warnings," the sufferers were still few in number: but Mr Rowe closes the account by informing us "that sixty persons are said to have been much bruised." The old White Hart, in which this calamity happened, was part of an ancient mansion belonging to the family of Yates, and stood in the market place. It is said that a tapestried room of this mansion was occupied by Queen Elizabeth during one of her progresses in these parts.

An account of public pastimes of a religious nature once practised in Witney occurs in old Lambard's account of England, which is, in fact, full of similar interesting narratives; his words are these.

"In the days of ceremonial religion they used at Witney to set forth yearly, in manner of a shew or interlude, the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour Christ, partly of purpose to draw thither some concourse of people that might spend their money in the town, but chiefly to allure by pleasant spectacle the common sort to the liking of popish maumetry; for the which purpose, and the more lively thereby to exhibit to the eye the whole action of the resurrection, the priests garnished out certain small puppets, representing the persons of Christ, the watchmen, Mary, and others, amongst the which one bare the part of a waking watch-

man, who (espying Christ to arise) made a continual noise like to the sound that is caused by the meeting of two sticks, and was there-of commonly called Jack Snacker of Witney. The like toy I myself (being then a child) once saw in Paul's Church at London, at a feast of Whitsuntide, where the commynge down of the holy ghost was set forth by a white pigeon, that was let to fly out of a hole, that yet is to be seen in the midst of the roof of the great isle, and by a long censer, which descending out of the same place almost to the very ground, was swung up and down at such a length, that it reached with the one sweep almost to the west gate of the church, and with the other to the quire stairs of the same, breathing out over the whole church and company a most pleasant perfume of such sweet things as burned therein; with the like dumb shews also, they used every where to furnish sundry parts of their church service, as by their spectacles of the nativity, passion, and ascension of Christ, by their taking of ashes, covering of images, strewing of flowers, bearing of palms, sounding of clappers, beating on bookes, discipling on the heads and hands, ceasing of bells at one time, and sounding with bells, voice, and organs, like a black sanctus, at another time, hanging out of reliques, carrying about of sacraments, marching with flag and banner displayed, sprinkling of water, dealing of bread, offering of the pix, disguising in garments, changing of tunes, blessing of bishops, crossing of priests, censuring of clerks, and innumerable others: upon the sight of all which, a man might reasonably deem, that he saw the figure rather than the truth, the shadow than the body, the ceremonial law than the comfort of the gospel, and finally Christ rather played with than preached, and his religion rather jested at than digested; for (alas) what more edification had the common and unlearned man by one of these pageants especially the same being either not opened at all, or else pronounced in a strange language, than if he rather had beheld some solemn feast and sacrifice of the *Jews*, performed after their rite and language, whereof he understood no part? Or what availed it, not only to know, but to believe also,

that Christ was borne, suffered, and arose, (which notwithstanding is more than could well be learned by these dumb shews) unless the fruit of his nativity, death, and resurrection be taken withal, and applied to the comfort of the conscience? Which, since true faith cometh by hearing and not by seeing, is more than all the spectacles in the world can bring to pass. I wot not therefore where they learned so to serve the eye, and starve the ear, unless it were out of this Gospel,

Segnius irritant animos demissa per aures,
Quam quæ sunt oculis subjecta, &c."

Feasts, or, as they are called elsewhere, Wakes, when first established in this country, were based upon religious principles, and greatly resembled the Love-feasts of the early Christians. These festivals were held on the day of the year that was dedicated to the patron saint of the church in each parish, or on the birth-day of the saint whose relics were therein deposited, or on the day of the dedication of the parish church. In process of time the people assembled on the vigil or evening preceding the saint's day, and came, says an old author, "to church with candles burning, and would *wake*, and come towards night to their devotion." Abuses were introduced as early as the tenth century and the Fathers of the church were obliged to order the people to leave off *waking*. The original design was at length totally abolished, and a promiscuous crowd from all the neighbouring parishes attended. Pedlars and hawkers likewise came to sell their wares, and so by degrees the *religious wake* was turned into a secular fair. Riots and debaucheries sometimes took place at these meetings, and gave so much offence that they were abolished, and regular fairs established. At many places these Sunday fairs are still kept up under the old name of Wakes, but in Oxfordshire generally they pass under the name of Feasts, and beginning on the Sunday, last almost through the whole week.

Church ales, or as they are more commonly called Whitsun ales, originated from Wakes. The chief parish officers, observing the latter to be more popular than any other holidays, conceived that,

by establishing other institutions something similar to them, they might draw together a large company and annually collect from them such sums of money as would considerably ease the parish rates. By way of enticement to the populace, they brewed a certain quantity of strong ale, which was sold on terms advantageous to the seller. Philip Stubbs, in his *Anatomy of Abuses*, 1595, severely censures the disorderly conduct of these popular meetings, and it must be confessed that they have sometimes ended in scenes not so interesting as those depicted in the *Spectator* No 161.

Chaucer, in his *Ploughman's Tale*, charges the priest with being expert

At the wrestling and at the wake,
And chief chanter at the male,
Market beaters, and meddling make,
Hopper and houters with hive and hale.

Whit Monday and Whit Tuesday are observed as festivals, for the same reason as the Monday and Tuesday in Easter week. Their religious character, however, is almost obsolete, and they are now kept merely as holidays, at which times the working classes cease from their labours and pursue such diversions as the hand of Time has spared.

These, in Witney, are very limited: the Morrisdancers are the leading actors, and at Christmas the Mummers exhibit their humble performances, whilst the school children gather a few half-pence by singing carols from door to door.

§ 23. WITNEY IN THE CIVIL WARS.

In the early ages of English History, Witney, no doubt, figured as much as other towns of the same size and importance: but the accounts of these proceedings have mostly perished by lapse of time or still slumber in the worm eaten volumes which crowd our public libraries. I do not propose to weary the reader with many matters which might be brought forward—more likely to puzzle than to enlighten him—but shall make an exception in favour of certain notices of the civil Wars, which may amuse, whilst they

serve as a warning that our own age confers greater happiness on the whole people than, probably, any other that has gone before it.

The first of these notices is from the Diary of Sir Wm Dugdale, edited by W. Hamper in the year 1827 ; it gives a lively picture of the unsettled state of the land during the wars between the king and Parliament, and of the sudden surprises and dangers to which the most lonely places were then liable.

“ 1644, JUNE 17—The king marched to Burford. This day 4000 foot (left by his Majestie) were sent out of Oxford and Abington to the Army at Burford with 15 pieces of cannon.

18—Prince Charles, the duke of Richmond, earl of Lindsey, &c., came from Burford into Oxford. The king marched with the army to Witney . . .

21—The king marched from Witney to Blechington.

JULY 17—Waller marched to Woodstock.

19—Waller marched from Woodstock to Witney.

20—Waller marched to Abington.

1645 APRIL 24—Blechington House delivered up to the rebels under the command of Cromwell, by lieutenant-colonel Windibank, upon summons, and no endeavours of resistance.

25—Colonel Windibank sentenced to suffer death (by judgment of a court of war) for delivering up Blechington House to the rebels.

27—The rebels passed over Charwell, and beat up our quarters about Bampton, and there took 200 foot belonging to the garrison of Faringdon.

MAY 3.—Colonel Windibank was shot to death (according to the sentence of the court of war) within the garden at Oxford Castle. Prince Rupert and Prince Maurice came with 1000 foot and 1000 horse to Burford.

4.—This morning they came in person to Oxford.

19.—The countess of Northampton went to Banbury.

21.—The rebels, under command of Sir Thomas Fairfax, appeared scattering about Oxford.

23.—They began to make a passage over Chawell, near Marston, that being Sir T. Fairfax his head-quarters. The out-houses of Godstow House fired, and the house quitted by Mr David Waller, who brought his men safe to Oxford; the rebels entering it the same day.

26.—The rebels put over four foot regiments and thirteen carriages, at their new bridge over Charwell.

27.—Two regiments of the rebels, viz : the white and red, with two pieces of ordinance, marched by Godstow, and so to Hinksey. The lord keeper, lord treasurer, and mayor of Oxford, marched before their companies to the guards.

29.—This evening a bullet of 9 pounds' weight shot from the rebels' warning-piece at Marston, fell against the wall, on the north side the wall, at Christ Church. Six hundred foot and two hundred horse, under the command of Colonel Rainsborough (of the rebels' forces) assaulted GAUNT HOUSE, near Newbridge.

30.—This night shot was heard from Gaunt House.

31.—Gaunt House yielded to the rebels, wherein were taken 21 prisoners, besides 30 that had been out on a party to bring in provision. A garrison was then placed for the Parliament.

1646, Mar. 18. The earl of Lindsay went from Oxford to Winchester House. The same day 2000 of the rebels came into Woodstock from Witney, commanded by colonel Rainsborough.—

In the *Bibliotheca Gloucestrensis*, is another narrative of events with which Witney was connected, at the same disastrous period. It is quoted in Mr Symons's Manuscript Collections [*vol. i, p. 264*], and is headed "A relation of the Taking of Ciceter [Cirencester] by one who was present at the Taking of it."

Three hundred of the townspeople falling at the feet of Prince Rupert, "his mercifulness pleased itself in making them all prisoners." But in truth, "the writer continues," they stripped many of the prisoners, most of them of their inmost garments. They were all turned that night into the church, and though many of them were wounded and weary, yet their friends were not

suffered to bring them a cup of water into the church that night, but what they thrust in at the back side of the church, having broken the windows: and the like cruelty, I hear, was shewed unto them, when they lay in Witney church, in their passage to Oxford. They tied all the prisoners, gentlemen, ministers and all, in ropes, and made them all go a-foote through the dirt in the streets on the way to Oxford, which, in regard of the many horses, was up to their knees sometimes."

Sixty years after the wars between Charles and his parliament were ended, we find other notices shewing that the embers of that fire, which had covered the whole kingdom, were still smouldering, not without private piques still more to be lamented, in proportion as malice backed by perjury brings more calamity upon a corrupted people, than the utmost evils which follow in the wake of a civil war.

1716, MARCH 23.—The persons lately taken into custody by the Messengers and brought from Witney in Oxfordshire, for enlisting men for the Pretender, in order to make an insurrection in that county, against whom there seemed so positive a proof, that 'twas supposed an indictment of nothing less than high treason could be found against them, have been discharged—it appears to the government to be only an inveterate malice to swear away their neighbours' lives.

The following is an affidavit taken before Justice Gery, which will throw some light into these proceedings, and shew the violence of party spirit reigning at this time.

"Benjamin Walton, of Witney, in the county of Oxford, carpenter, voluntarily maketh oath, that in the month of February last, Thomas Soames, a servant of Sir Francis Blake, sent for this deponent to his master's house, and asked him if he knew any thing against Thomas Carter, who was lately this deponent's master. This deponent told him, if he did, he dare not speak of it, because he owed the said carpenter money; then the conversation ceased. That about the beginning of

March, last, a servant of George Pomfret's came for this deponent to go to the parsonage house, in Witney aforesaid, where the said George Pomfret lived, and this deponent accordingly went to the said house, and found, in company with the said George Pomfret, the said Thomas Soames, who both asked him, this deponent, to sit down and drink with them, and bid him fear nothing, for he should have money to pay Carter; and then asked this deponent, if he could not be revenged on Carter; and if he knew any thing against Mr Johnson, Mr Moulding, or Mr Haskins, or any others that used to keep this deponent's master's (Carter's) company; to which this deponent answered he knew nothing; for he was not company for such gentlemen: that then this deponent and the said Pomfret and Soames fell to drinking, and a pen, ink, and paper were called for, and Mr Pomfret dictated to Soames, who wrote what Mr Pomfret said; and after burning some part of what was wrote, and correcting the rest, Soames wrote it again on another piece of paper, and both Pomfret and Soames obliged the deponent, when much in liquor, and without having any knowledge of the contents, to write and set his name to the said paper; and Soames gave this deponent 42 shillings, and immediately went with him, and saw this deponent pay his master (Carter) the money he owed him; and Soames, both before and since, gave this deponent money. B. Walton. Coram me Tho. Gery. [SYMONS'S *MSS. Collections*, ii, 467].

§ 24. THE WORK-HOUSE.

In the parish of Witney, on the Burford road and about a quarter of mile out of the town, is the Union Workhouse, built a few years ago, when the great change of the poor-laws took place. There is nothing remarkable in its structure or management. At the last census the number of its inmates was 301, from 32 parishes, which form the Union.

§ 25. AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural state of the Witney district does not greatly differ from that of Oxfordshire generally. My readers will perhaps be better pleased to read what was done under this

head in times long gone by, than to be told that which they know as well themselves, and probably better than the teller.

The first notice we have of the landed interests at Witney is from Domesday Book, written in the days of William the Conqueror :

III. The bishop of Winchester's land.

The bishop of Winchester holds Witney. Stigand, archbishop, held it. There are 30 hides of land, with 24 ploughs. Now, in the domain are 5 ploughs and 9 serfs, and 36 townsmen with 11 borderers, they have 20 ploughs. There are 2 mills of 32 shillings and 6 pence, and 100 acres of meadow : a wood of 3 leagues long and 2 leagues wide, with burdens worth 50 shillings.

In the time of king Edward it was worth 22 pounds : now, 25 pounds.

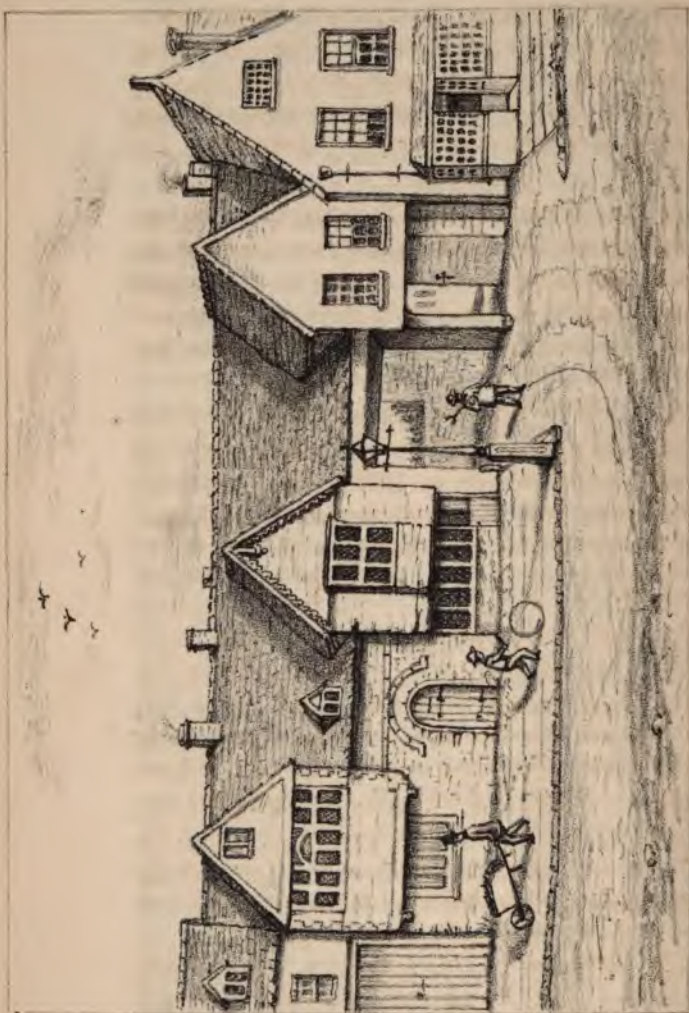
Nearer to our own times is an account of the Witney mode of farming, displayed in the following paragraph, cut from an old book without a title, but apparently printed about 100 years ago :

"In the neighbourhood of Whitney, they sow one year wheat, the second beans, the third barley, the fourth keep it fallow, the fifth sow barley, and the sixth clover, with variations. They set their beans with a dibble, and keep them clean by hoeing. About Hanborough, when beans are not sown, then clover is sown among the wheat in spring. They plant all their beans, and generally hoe them twice. They use both foot and wheel ploughs, all with four horses. A remarkable manner of estimating crops here is by the return, in proportion to the seed ; wheat they reckon five or six bushels for one ; and as they sow three bushels on an acre, it amounts of course to about two quarters, or two and a half. An acre of barley produces three quarters, and one of beans three and a half. They have in this part of the county no dairies, and they even feed their hogs in summer with beans. There are said to be no less than five sorts of wheat sown in this county, all adapted to as many kinds of soil. Oxfordshire abounds with meadows, which are not surpassed by any pastures in England. The hills of Oxfordshire, before the civil wars, were pretty well furnished with trees, but wood is now so scarce, that it is frequently sold by weight, not only at Oxford, but in the northern parts of the county. That part called Chiltern is still a woody tract, and is remarkable for great plenty of beach ; but there are

not many trees of other kinds. Besides, the Chiltern lies so far from Oxford, and so near the river Thames, that the wood is readily conveyed to London, and is consequently of little benefit to the rest of the county, which producing no coals, fuel is very scarce."

A great change seems to have been made in the neighbourhood of Witney in the year 1761 when the commons were enclosed. The peasants were almost in open rebellion, and the aid of the military was called in. The process of enclosure has everywhere been the cause of annoyance to the poor, who fancy themselves thereby deprived of their just rights. In a private letter from Witney, dated March 25, 1761, is the following narrative of a riot occasioned by the enclosure, and happily ended without much harm to any one concerned in it.

"Last Saturday noon a detachment of the Berkrhise regiment, commanded by Capt. Balgrave, with the grenadiers under Capt. Andrews, marched into the place. At twelve on Sunday night, the drum beat to arms on intelligence being received that a party of rioters had risen to demolish the fences on North Leigh heath : but before the troops could reach the place, the rioters were gone : the soldiers marched however about the heath, until five in the morning, and then returned to their quarters at Whitney. At two in the afternoon on Monday the drums beat again to arms, and intelligence being received that upwards of three thousand persons were met together armed with bludgeons and pitchforks, the soldiers marched very speedily to North Leigh heath again. They found there a very large mob, armed desperately, who insulted the officers and soldiers, and refused to disperse though the Justices read the riot act and proclamation to them. After upwards of an hour had elapsed, the soldiers being still insulted, the justices ordered the grenadiers to disperse the mob, and to take the ringleaders, and disarm the rioters : this they did, under the command of their officers, whose diligence and alacrity cannot be enough commended. Three or four parties of grenadiers pursued the ringleaders over the hills, and took in all nine of them ; thus we have, without the effusion of blood, got clear of an affair, which threatened consequences as fatal as any riot in the memory of man. This happy event is owing to the presence of mind in the Justices, and the coolness of the soldiers when in their ranks, and to their astonishing diligence, as soon as they were permitted



W. Sneyd del. 1851.

CORN RETURNS' OFFICE.

to pursue the rioters. Several of the ringleaders were taken by the officers' own hands. A vast number of bludgeons were taken by the soldiers.

On the present state of agriculture in this district, I shall not long claim the reader's attention. The depression, brought about by the repeal of the corn laws, has not spared Witney, but it is to be hoped that time will cure this, as it cures all other evils.

The Witney farmers have, at all events, the advantage of being a numerous body, as may be seen, when they assemble at the weekly market.

Besides the market, which is held on Thursday, there are four fairs in the year, held on Thursday in Easter week, when an ox is roasted whole, on June 29, on Nov. 23, and on the Monday immediately following Sept 8. This last is called the Feast and begins nominally on the Sunday which next follows the 8th of September.

Every month, also, there is a great cattle market. The first was held on Thursday, Aug. 29, 1839, when almost the whole of the stock was sold, and at good prices. There were nearly 3000 sheep, 80 very fine tups, 200 beasts, 200 pigs, some good horses, a few of which fetched £50 each, and 20 calves.

§ 26. THE INDEPENDENT CHAPEL.

The foundation-stone of this building was laid by Miss Townsend, on the 4th of March, 1828, when a suitable address was made by the Rev. R. Price, minister of Cote chapel. The purchase of the ground and the erection of the building cost nearly £2000. Of this amount £1100 was contributed by Mr William Townsend, a native of Witney, and one of its principal benefactors. The minister and congregation contributed £300, and the remainder was collected by voluntary contributions. The property of the chapel was placed in the Hackney trust, and the building was opened for public worship on the 1st of October, 1828.

The society, for whose use this chapel was built, had existed in Witney from the days of the Puritans, and were obliged to quit

their former place of worship for want of room. The present minister is the Rev. R. Tozer.

§ 27. THE WESLEYAN CHAPEL.

This new and elegant building is situated on the eastern side of High Street towards the lower part of the town. Its front towards the street is in a light Gothic style, and profusely ornamented—some think, even to excess. The highly respectable body, to whose use it is dedicated, have long maintained a status, not only in Witney, but over all England, which nothing that I might say, could in any way elevate or enhance. The present ministers are the Rev. Mr Horton and the Rev Mr Doughty.

The public spirit which has led both Wesleyans and Independents in Witney, from voluntary contributions alone, not only to maintain but to beautify their several places of worship, cannot be too highly praised.

§ 28. COGGES—PRIORY—MANOR—PARISH CHURCH.

The small parish of Cogges is situated in the hundred of Wootton, and separated from Witney by the river Windrush. It contains two hamlets Newland and Wilcott. The population of Cogges including Newland, by the census of this year, is 814 and of Wilcott 10 persons only. As the seat of an ancient priory and manor Cogges deserves a more minute notice than we can afford to give it in this work.

Among the vast possessions which, after the conquest of England in 1066, fell to the share of Odo bishop of Bayeux and base brother to William the Conqueror, was the manor of Cogges, which at the completion of the Domesday inquisition appears to have been held under him by one Wadard or Odoard. The manor is there described to consist of 5 hides and 8 ploughs or carucates of land—two of the latter only in demesne. On these, 3 servi or bondsmen are the only tenants on record. The mill and hay produced each 10 shillings in the year. The meadow land occupied 11 quarantines or furlongs in length, and 2 in width: the pasture 3 in length, and 1 in breadth: and the net produce of the whole, both in the Confessor's and the Con-

queror's time, was ten pounds. Odo, who possessed no less than 255 manors in other counties, thought himself rich enough to make a purchase of the papacy, whenever it fell vacant.

In 1082, he collected his treasures, sent a portion of them on to Rome, and was preparing with a great retinue to follow, when William, hearing of his design, hastened over from Normandy, surprised him in the Isle of Wight, just as he was going to set sail, arrested him as earl of Kent, with his own hands, and sent him prisoner to Rouen. After this disgrace, the king confiscated all his possessions, part of which he distributed to certain knights, for the defence of Dover castle, among whom was William de Arsic, whose successors at Cogges, so late as 1327, paid 52s. 6d. towards the ward of the castle, as the tenure of their estates. The Arsics are stated to have been descended from the old Saxon earls or aldermen of Oxford.

The disgrace of Odo happened four years before the completion of the general survey. But, as those counties, where his possessions lay, in all probability, were visited by the commissioners long previous to 1086, their lands and their tenures were as completely ascertained as if the names of those who possessed them under William's recent grants, had been inserted. This is, probably, the reason why William de Arsic is unnoticed as the lord of Cogges.

Cogges is an old Teutonic word for a ship and was a name given 100 years ago to the small boats upon the Ouse and Humber. Hence probably the word cock-boat.

The Priory. Manasser, son of William de Arsic just mentioned, reserving to himself the manor or lordship of Cogges, gave the church, with lands and tithes in divers places, to the monks of the abbey of the Holy Trinity at Fescamp in Normandy, who sent over part of their convent, and founded here a priory as a cell to their foreign monastery.

The possessions of the Cogges monks seem to have been very little, if at all, improved at any subsequent period of time. And with the exception that their lands and revenues were continually

seized, during the wars with France, till the alien monasteries were finally dissolved by act of parliament, in the 2nd year of Henry V, there is little on record that adds a single feature to their history.

Browne Willis, in his valuable History of mitred abbeys, vol. I, p.173, has furnished us with the names of some of the priors, who were usually chosen by the foreign monastery, taken out of the registers of Lincoln, as follows :

1. Hugh, a monk of this house, resigned A. D. 1227, and was succeeded by
2. John de London, another monk of the house. After him
3. Elericus, instituted prior 15 cal. June 1237. His successor is supposed to be
4. Gervase, A. D. 1248, on whose death or resignation
5. William de Esmerville, a monk of Fescamp, was promoted to the office. Then
6. Hugh, who resigned about 1262.
7. William Barbeyn, another monk of Fescamp, instituted 4 id. July 1262, resigned about A. D. 1277.
8. Hugh, a monk of Fescamp, instituted 4 cal. June 1277.
9. Stephen de Albemarle : resigned on 21 cal. June 1291.
10. Matthew de Ponte, admitted prior 15 cal. Sep. 1291 resigned 11 cal. June, 1299.
11. Roger, surnamed Hardy, admitted on the same day : resigned 1302.
12. Vigor, a monk of Fescamp, admitted 4 id. Nov. 1302 : resigned about 1304.
13. William de Leinville, 6 id. Mar. 1304.
14. Ranulf de Frison, admitted 3 cal. May, 1333.
15. William Hermonig, otherwise called Hamo or Hremo, 3 cal. Aug. 1341.

In 1348 this man, when he had been seven years prior of the convent, was made surgeon to the king. The salary granted to him on the occasion, as appears by the original patent, still remaining amongst the records in the tower, was no less than £30

per annum. At this period the professions of medicine and surgery were almost entirely confined to the religious: and the largeness of the sum here granted would seem to shew that the prior's skill was in great reputation: or, that one of the conditions of his engagement was that he should attend king Edward to the wars in France.

Nothing more is known of the priors or their house until the dissolution of the foreign cells, when Henry VI, in pursuance of a plan projected by his father, made Cogges, among other alien possessions, a part of the demesnes with which he endowed his new foundation at Eton, where several charters relating to the old foundations are still preserved. Edward IV again granted the estates to the same corporate body.

Besides the charters already spoken of at Eton and in the Tower, we have scarcely any munimental records relating to the priory of Cogges. There is a copy of a charter of Robert de Arsic of the time of king John in the British Museum (Harl. MSS. 2044, f. 105), and a composition concerning tithes, in Little Barton, Oxfordshire, in the chartulary of Osney Abbey, now preserved at Christ Church, Oxford. Besides which, it appears, they held the manor of Waverle in the county of Southampton (MSS. Dodsworth in the Bodleian, XI, f. 117).

The Manor. The manor was continued in the family of the Arsics, as we learn from DUGDALE's *Baronage*, vol. I, p. 539, until the 29th of Henry the Third, when Joan and Alice, coheirresses of Robert de Arsic, the former wife of Eustace de Greinville, and the latter the wife of Thomas de Haye, by Sybille daughter of — Crevequer, passed away all their interest in the lordship of Cogges, and of whatsoever else descended to them from the before mentioned Robert de Arsic, their father, unto Walter Gray archbishop of York; but the consideration of this grant is not recorded.

In the 29—30th of Henry III the archbishop conveyed all his estates in Oxfordshire to his brother Robert de Grey and his son, Walter de Grey.

In 1327 Thomas Gardiner held lands here, paying his yearly service, as has been already mentioned, towards the ward of Dover castle, at which time John Gifford, of Crayford in Kent, was registered in the inquisition as his heir. In the 33d of Henry VI, it appears to have passed in dower with Alice—daughter of Sir John Deincourt and heir to her sister the wife of Ralph lord Cromwell who died without issue—to William lord Lovel, whose son Francis being attainted in the 1st year of Henry VII, for siding with Rich. III at the battle of Bosworth Field, this barony, amongst his other possessions, became forfeited to the crown. It was soon after given to Jasper earl of Pembroke and duke of Bedford (half-brother to Henry VI by his mother's marriage with Owen Tudor) but here we lose traces of the further descent of the manor.

In the 4th year of queen Elizabeth, 1562, Richard Ruffye, gent. appears to have been possessed of considerable property here, as well as Sir Francis Wenman, in the 16th of Charles I.

In the reign of James I, Sir William Pope, baronet, afterwards earl of Downe, built a large mansion house near the site and ruins of the priory. His family lived here a considerable time; and some part of this structure is now remaining, a little to the South-east of the church, and is occupied as a farm-house. The building seems to have been perfect in the time of Anthony Wood, who says that it stood on the site of the Old Priory; but this is a mistake; for the Priory stood on the north side of the church, as is clear from the remains of it still standing.

The arms of the Popes are composed of Griffins. At Newland, a hamlet in Cogges parish, the old inn with the sign of the Griffin, still exists. "On the south side of the church" says Antony Wood, who wrote toward the end of the 17th century "neare adjoining is a ground called by the name of the castle-yard, where are often-times great thick foundations dug up, and the vulgar people there dwelling think that in ancient times there was a castle, but I have not yet read of any such thing."

It is, however, more than probable that these were the ruins of

an old castle belonging to the Arsics, for it is not likely that this family were lords of Cogges for so many years without having a baronial residence to identify them with the place.

The last family of eminence who appear to have lived at Cogges were the Blakes, one of whom, William Blake esq. built the Market-Cross at Witney in 1683, and, in 1695, bequeathed land producing about £50 per annum, out of which £6 is paid for teaching 24 children at High Cogges, £6 for a like purpose at Newland in Cogges, and £20 for clothes, books, and other charitable uses.

The Parish Church. The living is a perpetual curacy, in the archdeaconry and diocese of Oxford; it is in the patronage of the Provost and Fellows of Eton College, the impropiators. The present minister is the Rev. H. Gregory, also master of the Witney Grammar School. The church, supposed to have been built by one of the Greys of Rotherfield, is an ancient edifice, with a tower having an octagon pyramidal roof; the north aisle is ornamented with rich mouldings and grotesque figures playing on musical instruments. Between it and the chancel is an ancient monument of free stone erected, and thereon the portraitures of a lady lying, and two angels supporting her head.

"It is quite out of remembrance there," says old Antony Wood. "All that I can guess is that perhaps it was for some of the Arsickes, who were founders of the priory there, and that she built the aforesaid for mass to be said for her soule. What makes one suppose so is, because there is a chamber in the mansion house called the priest's chamber. In the said north aisle have been divers coats of arms and painted windows, but they were most of them torn down in the war-time. There only remains G. a stag's face A. and this coat, Party per fesse indented G. and O. in chief point a barrulet.

In the east window in the chancel are these arms Barways of 6 pieces A. and B., a bend G. Barways of 6 pieces A. and B. on a bend G. 3 martlets O. Underneath is writ obscurely in Saxon characters Ec. Dame de Grey V. 2 Chev. G."

There is also the tomb monument of John of the Witney Blanket Company, with the White from Witney: Deceased at Ould Sturminster, and was here buried the 2 day of August.

§. 29. HAMLET OF WILCOT

This is a hamlet in the parish of Cogges manor, which is said by Plott (*Oxfordshire*, to have been anciently the head of a barony: of its barons is buried in the neighbouring church.

"But the person there buried with his wife bent figures, richly habited, are on a beautiful and elegant chantry, is.....WILCOTES or WILCOTT. Both have both a collar of Esses, but no barony. From the style of architecture, I take this chantry to be of the time of Hen. VI. The family of Wilcot; and they were of Oxfordshire, but now long since extinct. Their coat of arms is an eagle's head with wings. The two figures mentioned, which are as large as life, I take to be Alicia Wilcott, whose daughter Elizabeth married John Raynesford of Great Tew, in this county, who appeared in the windows of the mansion house. On the wall is a remarkable inscription, JOHN WILCOTES ET ALIA ET SEMEL (i. e. 1401 or 1410)." Note in the life of Sir T. Pope, quoted in Mr SYMONDS VI, 199.

In the hamlet of Wilcot is an ancient church, which are the arms of the family of Pope, and a monument in memory of John Price, S. T. B., keeper of the records at Oxford.

§ 30. LANGLE.

Between Cogges and Witney, lying between the river is an island-meadow, called LANGLE, which I can nowhere find any mention except where it is written, "There is also a meadow of the inhabitants report, called by the name of L.

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DUCKLINGTON CHURCH, OXFORDSHIRE.

at £30 per annum. A man from any part of the kingdom may put his horse therein, and no man may say nay to him. It is free for all comers. Whether this meade did belong formerly to the priory, I cannot tell, but I suppose it was for stranger's horses that came a visiting, or perhaps on pilgrimage." It is said in several topographical books about this district that an attempt was once made to convey the property of this meadow for the purpose of a free school, but that the attempt failed because no title deed could be produced.

§ 30. PARISH OF DUCKLINGTON.

About a mile and half south east of Witney is the parish of Ducklington, containing, (without the hamlet of Hardwick) a population of 443 according to the latest census, and 1886 acres of land. The living is a rectory in the gift of the president and fellows of St Mary Magdalen College Oxford, for whom it was purchased, in 1684, of Walter Bailey the elder, who at that time held the advowson, the rector for the time being the Rev. Walter Bailey, probably a son of the same. The purchase money was raised partly by a bequest of Robert Keate, steward of the college, who died March 1680, and partly by the sale of materials of the old hospital of St John at Brackly Northamptonshire, which was pulled down about this time. On the death of Walter Bailey, the college presented, in succession, Dr Mainwaring Hamond in 1690, Richard Kent in 1731, John Pinnel in 1746 and James Hawkins in 1798. The present rector is the Rev. Thomas Farley, B. D., who was inducted in the year 1836, on the resignation of Mr Hawkins.

The church is dedicated to St Bartholomew, and is entered by a north and south porches; the former ancient, the latter modern, covering a corresponding pointed arch. In fact the south front, though the most ancient part of the building, and still retaining some of its old windows, has been more mutilated than any other part. The internal architecture is simple, interesting, and of very solid masonry. The proportions are good, and the whole affords a fair specimen of the mixed Norman and Early

English styles of architecture. The arches are pointed, but of little curve, and have no mouldings, but are composed of faccias and cants resting on circular columns, having square and round capitals, plain or ornamental with leaves, and intersecting arches. The bases of each are square and ponderous, projecting more than twelve inches all round the shaft.

In the centre of the aisle, towards the west end, stands the font, of a circular form and massy; having round its body a row of intersecting semicircular arches, rudely executed. It is very short and raised to a proper height, by being placed on a solid square stone base. The roof is a substantial specimen of framed timber; its ribs are closely placed, and form arches. The pews have been repaired of late years from the oak carving which was removed from Magdalen College Chapel, Oxford. Though inferior to the dignity of the splendid building of William of Waynflete, it was thought not unfit to decorate a simple village church.

The north aisle is of the more florid species of Gothic, and has some fine waving tracery in the windows. The date of its erection is probably about the reign of Edward the Third, and at the east end of it is a beautiful chapel set apart, probably, for the sole use of the founder. Its size is remarkable, and its internal singularities great. The cornices to the windows which cover only half the head of the arch, are thickly studded with small roses; immediately above which, under the roof, on each return of the north-east and south-east angle, in deep square recesses, are basso-relievos representing religious subjects. One of the compositions, near the south-east angle, is entirely obliterated; and the others have escaped with little injury, except the loss of their heads. The rude execution of these figures, and their situation, equally leave us at a loss to form any opinion about their original use or design. Whether the Chapel was always of this extent, cannot be ascertained; but no remains of a screen are visible, to shew that it was formerly subdivided.

The screen which separates the chancel from the nave, is modern, and the carving, placed at the back of the communion-table

was obtained from abroad by the present rector, and presents subjects remarkably applicable to the position which it now occupies. About the middle of the north wall of the church, on the inside, is a door leading down by a few steps to a small crypt, about 6 or 8 feet square, and receiving a feeble light formerly from a grating in the wall, which is now stopped up by a drain. It is difficult to say what could have been the original use of this obscure cell, but the bolt and hinge holes shew that it could only be opened and shut from within. This seems to indicate that it was used as a cell for private devotion and retirement.

On a slab in the nave of the church is the following epitaph :

** In memory of Mr Matthew Pryor, who died July the 23, 1718
Aged 78.*

Our friend now sleeps in silent shades, but when
The ætherial trumpet sounds, shall wake again,
Refreshed, renewed, in better state than ever,
Which comfort once obtained, will fail him never.
From us he's gone, but liveth yet in name ;
His character, though short, we thus proclaim :
A man sedate, in temper free from strife,
Deservedly respected all his life,
A husband kind, a father very dear,
As from his offspring you may always hear,

* This epitaph has been put into Latin verse by the present Rector, whose contributions in the same class of writing, to the collection lately published by the Principal of New Inn Hall, have been much admired by the general reader.

In somno, non morte jacet, quem flemus amicum,
Eripiet tumulo nam tuba clara Dei.
Sorsque instat melior : vires renovabit, et ista
Æternum dabitur conditione frui.
Absens ille licet, nomenque decusque superstes.
Carminè discè brevi fama quod ipsa docet.
Vir placidus, sine lite, et vita jùsta, sequuta est
Laus omnes, lucem ceu levis umbra, dies.
Sponsus quam comis ; pater, et non charior alter,
Nec pia progenies laude carere sinit.
Jure sodalitii fidus, solamen egenis :
Hi fuerant mores ingeniumque viri.

True to his friend, to poor and neighbours kind :
Such were the brave endowments of his mind.

Also in the chancel of the Church.

Mainwaring Hamond, S. T. P. ecclesiæ cathedralis Wintoniensis Prebendarii, hujus parochiæ Rectoris, viri ingenio et doctrina, probitate et hospitalitate apprime insignis: Obiit 13 die Junii Anno Dom. 1731, ætat. 80.

Juxta Jacet Phillis ejusdem Uxor: Obiit 2 die Maii Anno Dom. 1716, ætat.—.

Dr Hammond was one of the ejected Fellows of Magdalen College Oxford, in the reign of king James 2nd and the first Incumbent presented to this living by the society. Dr Hammond was the last person whom the president and scholars of Magdalen College appointed to the Headship of Magdalen Hall, but without success. The account of this singular proceeding as detailed by Dr Ingram, in his *Memorials of Oxford*, Vol. 2, under the Article MAGDALEN HALL, is as follows.

After the death of Dr Levett, 11 Feb. 1693—4, the fellows of Magdalene college again stood upon their right of electing a principal of this hall, and accordingly elected Dr Wainwaring Hammond; forthwith causing the common-gate of the hall to be kept shut against the vice-chancellor, when he was to come to admit a principal and the lodgings of the principal to be also shut; a person being placed therein to keep possession. The vice-chancellor, Dr Aldrich, then Dean of Christ Church, refusing to admit Dr Wainwaring as principal, the chancellor, James duke of Ormonde, nominated Richard Adams, D. M., fellow of All Souls. The vice-chancellor accordingly went with his bedels to admit him; but finding the common gate shut, he commanded a smith whom he had brought with him to make way for him: wherefore going to work with a saw and chisel to force the door from its hinges, they within opened it. Whereupon the vice-chancellor, entering with his company and Dr Adams, went up into the refectory, and there admitted him; and, as it is said, with the consent of the students: such con-

sent being in fact required by the aularian statutes of the University. On the 20th of June following, 1694, commenced a trial in Westminster hall, in the court of common pleas, concerning the right of nomination to the principality of Magdalene hall. The duke of Ormonde, as chancellor, challenged it as his by prescription, because he and his predecessors, chancellors of the University, had the nomination *from queen Elizabeth's reign* (when Robert earl of Leicester was chancellor) to his time. The president and fellows of Magdalene college claimed the nomination, because the hall was theirs, and the principal paid rent to them; that it was originally built by their founder, and confirmed and enlarged by the college. But the jury, Oxfordshire men, granted it to the duke merely by prescription, *tempus immemoriale*.

In the Register of Einsham abbey, cap. 267.

Will. de Dive de Doklinton filius Donis de Dive dedit cœnobio de Einsham, terram in Ducklington.

§ 32. HAMLET OF HARDWICKE—COKETHORPE MANOR-HOUSE AND PARK.

The hamlet of Hardwicke, as before remarked, is in the parish of Ducklington, and contains 128 inhabitants: its chapel lies within the precincts of Cokethorpe Park. Cokethorpe House, however, is in the parish of Standlake, and was built by Sir Simon Harcourt, afterwards Lord Harcourt, and Lord Chancellor in the reign of queen Anne. The queen presented his lordship with the carved oak decorations of the dining room, and visited the chancellor at this seat after the house was finished.

It was sold in 1755 to Maximilian Western esq., whose daughter and coheiress married Walter, brother to Sir William Strickland bart, of Boynton in Yorkshire, and father of Henry Strickland esq. the present owner of the estate.

Eastward of the mansion is a large extent of fertile meadows, through which the river Windrush flows, and about four miles lower down, falls into the river Isis at Newbridge. Upon this river Mr Strickland has an extensive fishery. His woods are well

stocked with pheasants and other kinds of game. The estate consists, altogether, of about a thousand acres of land.

§ 33. WHICHWOOD FOREST.

A forest is a portion of woody grounds and pastures, set apart for wild beasts and fowls, of forest, chase or warren, and preserved for the use of the sovereign.

A forest must belong to king or sovereign alone; for if it fall into the hands of a subject, it then becomes a chase, none being able to appoint a Lord Chief Justice in Eyre but the king.

A chase is a place for deer and other wild beasts, of an intermediate nature between a forest and a park. A forest and a chase differ from a park in that they are not enclosed, are of larger extent, and have greater variety of game, more keepers and other officers. Royal forests, maintained chiefly as places of sport for our kings, were subject to peculiar regulations. In the earlier periods, the laws concerning them were not so much designed for the preservation of timber, as for the protection of deer, and the regulation of the rights of Common enjoyed by the inhabitants, within the regard or purlieu of the forest. These rights were exercised under limitations perfectly consistent with the purposes for which the forests were maintained.

The cattle of the Commoners were only entitled to that surplus herbage which was more than the deer required. They were excluded during the fawning month in Summer, and from the 22nd Nov. to 4th of May.

No greater number was allowed upon any estate than could be maintained levant and couchant thereon, throughout the year: no sheep or goats were admitted at any time: swine only during the time of pannage, (15 days before, to 40 days after Michmas); the commoners being allowed dead wood, bearing no green hue, for their fuel; and the laws were extremely severe against offenders who trespassed in the forest.

The rights of common seem to have been in the nature of a compensation for the injury done by the deer to private estates within the forests, for whenever any estate was disafforested and

became no longer subject to range and haunt of the deer, it was by law deprived of the privilege of Common in that part which belonged to the crown.

The royal forest of Whichwood is a tract of land about 6 miles in length and 4 in breadth, running nearly from NW. to SE. and abuts on the parishes of Charlbury with its hamlets Fawler, Finstock, Ramsden, a hamlet of Shipton, Hailey and Crawley, hamlets of Witney, Minster Lovel, Asthall, Swinbroke, Widford, which is a detached part of Gloucestershire, Fullbrook, Langley, Shipton under-Whichwood, Ascot King's and Ascot d'Oyley.

The name *Whichwood* is derived, according to Dr Silver, from the Wiccii, who composed a part of the kingdom of Mercia and occupied the exact spot now covered by the forest. This royalty is generally what its name imports, a forest, although it is diversified with some open spots of ground, as at Dodd's Plain, the hamlets of Lea-field and Langley, which are in the forest, South Lawn Lodge, News Hill Plain, the Ranger's Lodge, the High Lodge, Five-ash Bottom, and some others.

The soil varies considerably, but, in general is a stone brash : the open parts produce heath and fern. It is beautifully diversified, with hill and dale, and the majestic oaks, lofty beeches, spreading ash, shady elm, and brawling brook, unite in giving every grace to the silvan scene.

The oaks are the most numerous and thriving, but there are not many which will be likely to be ready for use. The coppices of Whichwood forest are its most valuable production. Of these there are about 30, 18 of which belong to the crown, and twelve to the duke of Marlborough. The coppice wood belonging to her majesty is usually cut at 18 year's growth, and that appertaining to the duke at 21. The emolument derived from each acre is about 6s. per annum. The open parts of the forest produce nothing but fuel, and food for the deer, which are now not numerous. When a coppice is cut, the lord of the domain causes a hedge and ditch to be formed round it, for the term of seven years, until

the expiration of which period no person possessed of commonable right can enter with his cattle.

Many of our English kings have made Witney their temporary residence, attracted probably by hunting in Whichwood Forest.

In 1204, 6th of John, Richard de Prescott held of Richard de Greinville two hides of land in the village of Blechesdon, co. Oxford, in serjeantry by the service of carrying one shield of brawn before the king when he hunted in Whichwood Forest.

From the Itinerary of K. John it would appear that he was often at Witney, and several charters and letters patent of his are dated here at the "palace of the Bishop of Winchester."

In the 9th year of his reign 1207, June 12 & 13.

10th 1209, Jan. 18, and Mar. 13.

15th 1213, Novr. 7 & 8.

16th 1214, Novr. 27.

—Teste domino P. Wintoniensi episcopo apud Witteneiam 13 die Martii, anno regni nostri decimo.

—Teste meipso apud Wyten. &c.

And others of various dates, in similar forms.

Whichwood Forest was enlarged by king John, and inclosed with a fence. And it was in this forest that Edward IV, while hunting, chanced to meet with Elizabeth widow of Sir John Gray, and was so captivated with her beauty, that he broke off an intended match with the daughter of the duke of Savoy, and made her his Queen.

King James, in particular, took great delight in the place, and, we find, in the 13th year of his reign, gave to earl Danby the rangership and launderership of the forest. The verderers are now appointed by the freeholders of the county.

There were, until lately, large herds of deer and plenty of game in this forest: and red deer had been introduced as less manageable than fallow deer for poachers; but less care has of late years been taken to preserve the game. Poaching was once practised to a very great extent, and much harm was done to the morals of the whole neighbourhood by the fights and robberies which



S. E. VIEW OF TOWER.



WEST VIEW OF GRACE CHURCH.

were attendant upon all their doings. It is a general feeling that Whichwood forest will ere long be broken up and enclosed.

An interesting fair or fete champetre called Forest Fair, is held here on the Wednesday which immediately follows after the 8th day of September in every year.

§ 34. MINSTER LOVEL.

The village of Minster Lovel, so interesting to antiquarians for the beautiful ruins which are there to be seen, lies about two miles above Witney on the banks of the river Windrush. The old coach road from London to Cheltenham, Gloucester, Hereford and South Wales, passes through the parish, cutting it into two nearly equal parts, in the northern of which stands the village, forming, with the river which runs beneath parallel with the road, a bit of scenery equal to any which the county of Oxford possesses. At the east end of the village are the parish church, and the ruins of an ancient baronial mansion where once resided the noble family of the Lovels.

Extensive woods of Mr Coke occupy the northern side of the parish; beyond which lies the royal forest of Whichwood. Minster Lovel is a place of great antiquity and has given the title of baron to several noble houses. It is mentioned by Camden, in his *Remains Concerning Britain*, among the instances where the surnames of families have been added to the names of places; another instance of the same process is found in the neighbouring parish of Stanton Harcourt.

The first person who was ennobled from this place was John de Lovell, who, being then seated here, was in the 25th of Edward I (1297), summoned to Parliament as Baron Lovel, of Minster Lovel, being the 4th, to whom as baron, a writ of summons to Parliament has ever been directed; for before this time, all baronies were held by tenure, and they commenced by writ of summons only in the reign of Edw. I. This summons was the more remarkable, as the Ancestors of John had, many years before, been seized by tenure of the Barony of Castle Cary in Somersetshire. As the family of Lovel is equal, for antiquity and

splendor of origin, to any in the annals of English history, I may be allowed to relate with as much brevity as is possible, their genealogy, and the deeds which have conferred upon them a renown that will last as long as the English people shall retain their present national type.

John de Lovel was a lineal descendant of Robert, Lord de Brecherval in Normandy, who came over with William the Conqueror. Of this Robert, there was a son, Ascelin Govel de Percival, nicknamed Lupellus one of whose descendants was William Govel, earl of Ivry; and in his time, or soon after his death, the nick name of Lupellus, was shortened first to Lupel, and then to Lewel, or Lovel. From him probably, the parish derived the additional name of Lovel; for, as a proof that he possessed estates here, we find that in the 8th of Henry 1st (1197) he joined with Isabel his wife, in a grant to the Monks of Thame, of two mills at Minster Lovel.

It appears from the Roll of Pleas, in the Chapter House at Westminster, 8th John, Mich., that before that date, the church of Minster Lovel was given by Maud, the wife of William Lovel, to the abbey of St Mary de Yvry. It is recorded there, that William Lewell brought an assize of a moiety of the church of Minster Lovell, against the abbat of Ivry, who pleaded, that the church was not vacant, because the Abbat and convent of Ivry were thereof parsons, and of the gift of Maud the mother of the said William Lupell, and by his assent and consent; and she confirmed it by her deed, which testified that the said Maud with consent of William her son, whose seal was affixed, gave to the Church of the Blessed Mary, of Ivry, and the monks there serving God, the church of Minster, with all things, which to the right of the said church were known to belong.

They shewed also a charter of William, formerly bishop of Lincoln, in which it was contained that he, on the petition of the said Maude, the wife of Wm Luvell, and of Wm Luvell her son, being the said Wm, had given in perpetual alms to the abbat and monks of Ivry the parsonage of Minster, and that, on the presen-

tation of Robert the abbat, and the monks of Ivry, he had received and instituted Henry a clerk, the son of Richard &c. to the vicarage of the said church ; so that, nevertheless, the abbat and monks should have a moiety of all things; as well in lands as in offerings, which belonged to it, and Henry the other half as vicar.

Ivri was the place in Normandy where this noble family was settled before Robert came to this country with William the Conqueror, as appears by the genealogical "History of the house of Ivry, in its different branches of Ivry, Luvel, Perceval, and Gournay," a book published in the early part of George II's reign, under the name of J. Anderson, but which Horace Walpole, in his correspondence, scruples not to ascribe to the earl of Egmont himself, and ridicules as a silly and expensive token of vanity on the part of that noble lord.

In consequence of the gift of Maude, the church became a cell of the foreign monastery to which it was attached, and an alien priory of Benedictine monks.

In the 15th of Edward III, it was seized into the king's hands, for some cause or other, probably during a vacancy, and the king granted to John Darcy the son, and Galfrey de Sautre, parson of the church of Syresham, the custody of this priory, and the administration of all its fruits and profits.*

John, the second Lovel who bore that name, was signed with the cross, in order to go on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and was governor of Northampton and sheriff of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire. He died 15th of Edward I, and by an inquisition taken after his death, was found to have died seized, among other manors, of Minster Lovell. It was his son John who was summoned to Parliament 25th of Edward I, and the writ of summons to him and his descendants sometimes describes them as of Minster Lovel, sometimes of Docking in Norfolk.

Ancient records, particularly the *Inquisitiones post mortem*, or Es-

* Orig. in Curia Schaccarii.

cheat rolls, and the Hundred rolls, of the 7th of Edw : 1st, afford very curious evidence respecting this manor, and the family of the Lovels. The roll of 21st Edw. 3 mentions Mynster Lovel manor as having belonged to John Lovel Knt : and as being holden of the honor of Winchester, and in the 36th of the same king it is enumerated among the other lands and tenements of John the son of John Lovel knight. Edward II, in the 18th year of his reign, granted to Hugh Le Despencer, Earl of Winchester, two parts of the manor of Minster Lovel with the appurtenances in the county of Oxford, which had belonged to John Lovel, to hold until the lawful age of the Heir, Saving to the king the knight's fees &c. rendering thereof annually £23.

In the reign of Richard II, or in the early part of the reign of Hen. IV, John Lord Lovel made a great addition to his patrimonial estates, by his marriage with Maud the daughter of Robert de Holland. He died the 9th of Hen. 4th, having in his will described himself, in consequence of his marriage, by the title of Lord Lovel and Holland, from whence unquestionably his descendant the Earl of Egmont in 1762, took the English title of Lord Lovel and Holland, the Egmont family being descended from the Lovels, not only as a branch of that family which under the name of Percival settled in Ireland, but also through a marriage which the 1st Earl of Egmont made with a daughter of Sir Philip Parker à Morley, who was descended from Alice Baroness of Morley daughter of William Lovell Lord Morley, 2nd son of William Lord Lovell of Tichmarsh. In the Escheat Roll of 9th of Hen. 4th the manor of Minster Lovell appears in a long list of estates, of which John Lovell Knt : had been seized in right of his wife Maud, the daughter of Robert de Holland. The hundred roll of 7th of Edw. 1st contains a full account of the state of property in this parish at that time.

The inquisition recorded there, which was taken under a commission from the king, directing an inquiry respecting all the particulars of tenures and other incidents to which landed estates at that time were subject, and which it appears was

taken on the oaths of gentlemen and freeholders in the adjoining villages, states that John Lovell held the manor of Minster Lovell for half a knight's fee, of the Earl of Leicester, and the Earl of the King in Capite, and the same John held in his fee the same manor, 3 carucates of land, and had a wood pertaining to the same manor within the cover (coopertum) of the forest of Whichwood, and had a view of Frankpledge and all appendages to the same pertaining, infanthe genethel, waif &c. And also half of the whole water which is in the river Wenrisse (Windrush) from the bridge of Wolmaresham down to the hill of Minster. One Villain and 29 freeholders are enumerated, with their respective services and rents. Six tenants in Chilson, it is recorded, paid rents to John Lovel, of whom 5 are stated to pay their rents "pro omni servitio salvo forinseco".

It appears, moreover, from this Roll, that the manor of Minster Lovel, together with that of Hooknorton and Swerford, was exempted from entry by the bailiffs of the Earl of Gloucester, a right which was exercised over other manors in the hundred of Chillington, of which the Earl was seized.

In 1314, 9th of Ed. II, "John lord Lovel married Maud sister of lord Burnell, and so got possession of the manor of Acton Burnell, which remained in the family until the battle of Stoke, when it was forfeited." GENT. MAG. July 1811, p. 17.

The peerage, under the title of Lovell, which originated 25 Edw. 1st, became extinct in the 2nd of the reign of Hen. 5, 1415, by the death of John Lovell the son of John and Maud his wife, but was revived by Hen: 6th in 1425, in the person of William Lovell. To this William Henry 6th granted, in the 18th year of his reign, liberty to impark a certain parcel of land called Mynstre Woods, with two adjoining fields (Rot. Pat. Pars. Sec.) and in the 24th to disafforest a Wood in Minster Lovell and make a Park there (Rot. chart. 24 Hen. 6th). Both these Lords appear from the Escheat rolls, to have died seized, the latter in the 33rd of Hen. 6th, of the manor of Minster Lovell together with some adjoining manors, and another John Lord

Lovell, who died the 4th of Ed. 4th, was found to have died seized of the manors of Mynster Lovell and Minster Parva.

In the year 1437, Elizabeth, daughter of Sir H. Douglas, of Lochleven castle in Scotland, and "maid of honour to Joanna queen of James I of Scotland, was in the royal apartment when it was attacked by the assassins of that king; and on the first alarm, she went to secure the door, but the bar having been removed, she thrust her arm into its place, in the hope of keeping them out; they broke her arm in forcing open the door, and finished their bloody tragedy." *Burke's Commons of Great Britain*, III, 120. This lady married Sir Richard Lovel of Balumbie, by whom she had an only daughter and heiress Janet, who married Sir Robert Graham, of Fintry, Stirlingshire.

In 1482 Francis Lord Lovell was advanced to the dignity of Viscount Lovell. Among the MSS. preserved in the British Museum [Add. 6113 fol. 184], is the following account of the ceremony:

"Kinge Richarde the iirde, in the * * * yere of his reigne, created Frauncys lorde Lovell vyscounte Lovell as followeth:

Item, on the XIIth day, the kinge being in a redynes, the said lord was apparelled in his parliament robes, and so brought fro the kinge's wardrobe betwene the lorde Morley and the lorde Fitzhughe with the officers of armes before hym untill they came into the kinge's greate chamber, where his grace stood under his clothe of estate, where, after obeysaunc made, his pattent was reade by the kinge's secrettarye, which was to him and his heyres males, which don and thanks geven, they departed toward his chamber thorowe the halle, ledde and accompanied as afore with the sound of trumpettes to his chamber, where he delivered to the officers of arms their fees, whereof, after the king's largess cryed, hys was cryed in iii places in the halle as followeth. *Largesse de puissant et noble viscomte Lovell, seigneur de Holland, de Burnell, Deynecourt, et de Grey de Rotherfield.*

Lord Lovell had much influence at court under Rich. III. Hence the following story.

The Blue Boar was a common sign in the reign of Richard III. In his reign one Collingbourn was executed for being the author of some verses on the king and his ministers, Sir Richard Ratcliffe, Sir William Catesby, and Lord Lovell, which began :

The cat, the rat, and Lovel our dogge

Rule all Englonde under an hogge.

See the *Gentleman's Magazine* for April, 1818. p. 309.

Lord Lovell sided with Richard 3rd in the contest which that king maintained for the crown, and fought at Bosworth, from whence he escaped into Ireland; and afterwards returning into England as a partizan of Lambert Simnell, fought in the battle at Stoke near Newark on Trent, 3rd of Hen. 7th. and a report of his having been slain in that fight, soon circulated: but this report may well be doubted, and the doubt has been since borne out by various concurrent circumstances. After the battle he was certainly seen endeavouring on horseback to swim the river Trent; yet, from this period, no further mention is made of him by any of our historians. A rumour prevailed that he had, for the time, preserved life, by retiring into some secret place, and that he was eventually starved to death, by the treachery or negligence of those in whom he had confided; which report seems in later days, to be confirmed by a very particular circumstance related in a letter from William Cowper Esqre, clerk of the Parliament, concerning the supposed finding of the body of Francis, Lord Lovel.

HERTINGFORDBURY PARK,

SIR.

9 AUG. 1737.

I met tother day with a memorandum I had made some years ago, perhaps not unworthy of notice. You may remember, that Lord Bacon, in his history of Henry VII, giving an account of the battle of Stoke, says of the Lord Lovell, who was among the rebels, that he fled and swam over the Trent on horseback, but could not recover the further side by reason of the steepness of the bank and so was drowned in the river. But another report leaves him not there, but states that he lived long after in a cave or vault. Apropos to this; on the 6th of May 1728, the present

Duke of Rutland related in my hearing, that about twenty years then before, viz in 1708, upon occasion of new laying a chimney at Minster Lovel there was discovered a large vault under ground, in which was the entire skeleton of a man as having been sitting at a table, which was before him, with a book, paper, pen &c. In another part of the room lay a cap, all much mouldered and decayed, which the family and others judged to be the Lord Lovel whose exit has hitherto been so uncertain.

W. COWPER.

Hence it may be inferred that this powerful but ill fated nobleman retired secretly to his own castle; and having intrusted himself to some friend or dependant, died either by treachery or neglect; a melancholy period to the fortunes of one of the greatest and most active personages of the era in which he flourished. In his lordship vested the baronies of Lovel, Holland, Deyncourt, and Grey of Rotherfield, all of which fell under the attainder that closed the last act of his life's tragedy. One of Lord Lovel's manors—that of Bayons co. Lincoln, has become, by subsequent grant and repurchase, the property of the right honorable Charles Tennyson D'Eyncourt, who descends from the heir male also of this distinguished warrior. See Burke's Annotations on the Roll of Battle Abbey, page 70; also Derbyshire Collections by Wolsey, Add. MSS. 6670. p. 397; and Topographical Miscellanies, No 3 Oxfordshire.—

Francis Lord Lovel was attainted 11th of Hen. 7th and the statute for that purpose, 11th of Hen. 7th cap. 63, recites, that in the act of attainder against the Earl of Lincoln Francis Lovell was ignorantly left out and omitted to the most "perilous ensample of other being of such traitorous myndes." He left behind him a widow, Anne, and two sisters, but no issue, and in him ended the male branch of the Lovels of Minster Lovel, and the dignities of Baron and Viscount Lovel.

But there was another member of the family who at this time rose to possess as much power as Lord Francis had lost. This was Sir Thomas Lovel, who was treasurer of the king's household.

He received his knighthood in 1487 at the battle of Stoke, became K. G. and afterwards one of the Executors of Henry 7th's wife, and was in great favor with Henry 8th.

Upon the death of Edmund Lord Roos of Hamlake without issue, in 1508, the manor of Worcesters, in the parish of Enfield, came to him in right of his wife, that nobleman's sister and co-heir. Enfield in consequence became the favorite residence of Sir Thomas Lovel and he died there May 25th 1524. He was buried in a degree of splendor almost royal, in the priory of Haliwell Shore-ditch, within a chapel, beneath a white marble tomb, both of which he had himself prepared. Blomfield in his history of Norfolk says the following lines were inscribed upon a wall of the Priory House :

All ye nuns of Haliwell
Pray ye both day and night
For the soul of Sir Thomas Lovel
Whom Harry the seventh made knight.

Letters illustrative of English History by Sir H. Ellis, 3rd series, vol. 1, p. 197.

The title after the attainder of the Viscount, lay dormant, until the 2nd of Geo. 2nd, when Sir Thomas Coke, K. B., of Holkham, Norfolk, who at that time was seized of the manor, and all the lay property in the parish, was created baron Lovel of Minster Lovel. This noble Lord was Post Master general from 1733 until his death in 1756 ; and in 1744 was raised to the dignities of Viscount Coke of Holkham, and Earl of Leicester.

His Lordship dying without issue, all the titles became extinct, but by his will the honour and estate was devised to his nephew Wenman Roberts, who thereupon took the name of Coke from whom they descended to Thomas William, the son of Wenman, and lately the member for Norfolk. In 1812 Mr Coke alienated nearly all the property in the parish, excepting the woods, which consist of about 360 acres. The title of Lovel was, however, in 1762, restored in the Perceval family, the Earl of Egmont having in that year been made an English Peer, by the

title of Baron Lovel and Holland and that Barony is now vested in the present Earl.

In the various historical records of the last four or five hundred years, which are still existing in our public libraries, the name of Lovel repeatedly occurs; in fact members of the family have filled almost every office of dignity both in church and state, but in a work like the present, it would be an endless task and without much profit to enumerate them.

The alien Priors in this Kingdom were not like the English Religious Houses in the reign of Henry VIII suppressed at once; they were gradually laid hold of by the reigning sovereign, mostly by Rich. II. By whom Minster Lovel Priory was first seized, does not appear, but Henry VI had it in his hands, and granted a lease of it to Edw. Lord Lovell, to hold for 15 years, at a rent of £8. 13. 8. per an. from the death of Queen Joan. In the 20th year of his reign, he granted this rent and the reversion of the Priory to his newly founded College of Eton. Rot. Parl. 20 Hen. VI, n. 17. Willis, in his Hist. of Abbeys, Vol. 2, P. 179, gives the names of many of the Priors of Minster Lovell.

A survey of 6th of Edward VI, is extant, which gives copious information of the Manor. In the margin it has "Manor of Minster Lovell in the said county of Oxford parcel of the possessions of John earl of Warwick." But the manor and estates were then in the king's hands. The survey purports to have been made the 16th June in that year, by Michael Comeswell, the surveyor general of the king, by the oath of Hen. Broke and 13 other tenants of the manor. On that occasion it was found that Minster Lovell, Chilson, and Chadlington, were equally parcel of this manor: and the names of Richard Bekyngham, as lord of the manor of Chilson, and 6 other free tenants are given as holding the Manor of Chilson, and lands in Chilson, Chadlington, Minster Lovell, and Shorthampton, under the manor of Minster Lovell: and the names and Lands of 16 customary tenants and 10 tenants, as the will of the Lord in great and little Minster Lovell, together with their respective rents and services, are particularly specified.

At that time also it is clear, that there were customary tenants in Shilton and Chilson and also in Bampton (all which places are within a few miles of Minster Lovell) which were parcel of this manor; for there are 5 customary tenants mentioned, whose tenements lay in Bampton, Aston, Shilton, and Chilson, and their lands are particularized, with their rents and services. A messuage, with the appurtenances, lying in Broderysington in the county of Gloucester, is also mentioned in the survey as parcel of the manor, and at farm, on a lease for 21 years.

As appears from a memorandum subsequently attached to this survey, Robert Kelway Esqre held by indenture dated the 1st and 2nd of Philip and Mary the site of the manor of Minster Lovel, with all houses to the same pertaining, with one orchard and a wall round the same, and several closes of arable and meadow land, the names and quantities of which are given at £13. 10. 8 per annum. There is a memorandum among others in the survey, stating that the Lord the King hath a warren there, and a several water called Wynerisse (repleat with Pyk, Ell, Chevene, Trotts, and Creves plentie, which begins from the mill called Wulsop mill (hodie Worsham mill) and so to the were, called Minster were. The chief or quit rents mentioned in the Hundred Roll of 7th of Ed: 1st and the survey 6th of Ed: VI, as payable to the Lord of this manor, by the free tenants in Minster Lovel, Chilson and Chadlington, are still by the most part paid to this day, the others have been lost by negligence or redeemed by purchase. It appears indeed by a plea put in by William de Valence in 13th Ed. 1st, in a quo warranto suit, that Henry III granted the manor of Bampton to him, William de Valence, in special tail, to hold of the King himself and his heirs. But this is not of necessity inconsistent with Bampton being a subinfeudation of Minster Lovel; for there are not wanting instances in ancient times, of Kings holding lands of a subject.

But whatever might have been the case with the Manor of Bampton, the customary tenants in Bampton, certainly, as stated in the survey held under the manor of Minster Lovel. There

is in the Parish a smaller division called Little Minster. This has in two instances received the appellation of a manor.

In the escheat roll 23 of Ed. III Minstre Parva manor is comprised in the catalogue of the possessions of Hugo Plasey; and in the 4th of Ed: IV John Lovel is found to have been seized of the manors of Minster Lovel, and Minster Parva. It occurs in many other instances, without this appellation. In *Testa de Nevil*, which contains inquisitions &c. of the reigns of Hen. III and Ed. III, there is this entry "Parva Minster: John of Cantelupe holds in the same, half a Knight's Fee, of the Fee of the earl of Warwick." The Charter Roll of 18 Ed. II has an Inquisition, *ad quod damnum*, relating to a messuage and land of Thomas Weste in Littleminstre.

In the escheat rolls, 1st of Edward III, it is stated, that Richard of Stanlake, of Witney, held of Henry Dyve one messuage, 160 acres of land, and 10 acres of meadow, in Little Minstre, and, in the 7th of Edward III, John of St Philibert and Ada his wife, are enrolled as the owners of one messuage and one plough land in Minstre Parva.

A messuage and land called Laundells, also in Little Minster, are commemorated in the escheat roll of the 8th of Henry IV, as being part of the possessions of John Lovel knight and Maud his wife.

The hundred roll of 7th of Edward I finds that Margaret of Cantilupe holds the hamlet of Parva Minstre of the earl of Warwick, for half a knight's fee, and the earl of the king in capite.

It expressly moreover distinguishes it from the other part of Minster Lovel, by recording that it owes suit to the hundred of Chadlington, and to the two great county courts of Oxfordshire, and the two tourns of the sheriff, holden in Chadlington hundred, and that the bailiffs of the countess of Gloucester shall come *once* a year to hold a view of frank-pledge, and shall have the *amerce-*ments, a jurisdiction from which we have seen that the manor at large was exempt. But the silence of the roll as to Little Min-

ter being a distinct manor, is conclusive evidence against the fact. There is this difference between the hundred roll, 7th of Edward I, and the Inquisitions Post Mortem, that in the former, tenures and feudal rights were the express objects of inquiry under the king's commission; whereas, in the Inquisitions, the quantity of possessions, whereof the particular tenant died seized, was rather the matter of inquiry, than the precise nature of them; and the description of a manor given to an estate being altogether incidental, it does not therefore carry with it absolute authority. At this day the name of Little Minster is still given to a hamlet on the south side of the river; but, for all parochial purposes, the hamlet is incorporated with the rest of the parish, its precise boundaries are not known, and no idea exists of its being an independent manor.

Leland, in his Itinerary, speaks thus of Minster Lovell: "Then about a mile to Mynster village, having the name of Lovell, harde by the churche. Master Vintor, of Wadeley by Faringdon, hath it of the kinge in ferme."

Messrs Buck, in 1729, engraved a north view of it. From this view it should seem that, in 1729, the building was in a perfect state, and in good preservation; and the accuracy of this view is attested by the present remains exactly coinciding with it, as far as they exist. But the 120 years which have passed since the date of Buck's engraving, have made a great alteration in the appearance of the ruins.

It was visited in 1775 by Grose, who in his *Antiquities*, vol. iv, gives a view of the south aspect, (there called by mistake the north-east) from which it appears that the building was then in the same state of dilapidation in which it is at present. Grose says, "It appears by its ruins to have been a large and elegant building. The conventual church and part of a gate-way are the chief remains. Some other buildings, formerly offices to the monastery, are converted to out-houses for the adjoining farm."

This ancient place was not, as Grose seems to have supposed it to have been, the old priory or monastery, but the mansion of the

lords of the manor, built possibly on the site of the priory.

The ruins stand on the south-east side of the church, very near to the river Windrush. It is difficult to say what parts of the original building they formed, but they are extensive and display a rich style of the ornamented Gothic.

A minute examination of the ruins, has led me to propose the following account of them as being more probable than any other.

1. The building evidently formed a large square, having each of its sides facing, as nearly as possible, the four cardinal points of the compass.

2. The south-side of the quadrangle stood parallel with the river Windrush, and within a few feet of its bank.

3. The whole of the south and east sides of the quadrangle have been destroyed.

4. The only remaining parts are the whole of the north side saving that a road for carts has been cut through the middle of it, the shell of a tower standing at the south end of the west side of the quadrangle, and a low wall joining this tower to the west end of the north side of the quadrangle. Whether the four sides of the square were filled with buildings, or merely consisted of connecting walls may be considered as doubtful; but the existing state of the ruins shews that the northern side of the quadrangle was the principal part of the whole castle. This portion of the building presents some noble architecture. There is a large room upwards of 50 feet long, but the roof has long since disappeared, and the windows on each side, open to the eaves, are many feet above the ground. This shews that there was no upper story: neither is there any appearance of rafters ever having been inserted in the side-walls. I therefore consider this to have been the old baronial dining hall, and no doubt the dinners once given in that grand old hall were in good keeping with the apartment itself. Along the north side of the hall, and separated by the hall from the main quadrangle of the castle, is an elegant room with three beautiful windows, looking towards the church: this

room was probably the withdrawing room, and at its eastern end is a groined archway leading by a principal doorway from the open air into the lower end of the hall. At the northwest and south-west ends of the hall are traces of stairs cut in the thickness of the wall or running up spirally through corner-turrets to the roof of the building. At the eastern end of the hall and of the northern front of the building were once low offices, and on the western side of the hall was a large room extending to the end of the north front, where is still to be seen a large mullioned window. This room was used for a barn until a year or two ago, when the roof fell in and with it many interesting features of this ancient edifice were irretrievably destroyed.

A large thick open door studded with strong bolts of iron, and hung on hinges of a singular shape and size, unquestionably transferred from the old mansion, at once secures and adorns the entrance of the adjoining manor farm-house, now occupied by Mr John Gillett.

The church is a small elegant building, and in a state of substantial preservation; the pews, the reading desk, and the pulpit, until lately, were in a shabby condition. These defects, and the neglected state of the village in general, may be attributed to the non-residence in the parish, for many scores of years, of the lord of the manor, or of any person of rank or fortune. The last person who took up his abode in this parish, seems to have been Dr Peter Heylin: and on the wall of the chancel there is a monument with this inscription:

Siste, viator: hoc enim monumentum tibi exemplum exhibet (quantum exempla possint inculpi marmore) pietatis erga Deum quam primitivæ vitæque non uno vel altero, sed omnium genere virtutum ornatae. A morte scilicet memoriam Henrici Heylyn armigeri vindicat, cujus natalis non minus per animi dotes, quam per parentum generosum decus claruit. Sub rege Carolo Primo fortiter militavit, non tam stipendii quam ecclesiæ gratia et principis, quorum utrorumque rebus concussis et desperatis, animum servavit intrepidum et semper reginum. Post reditum Caroli

Secundi ruris otium cum dignitate prætulit Aulæ strepitui et negotio lubrico ; tandemque confectis annis circiter 80, ad Minster Lovel efflavit animam, Oct. 13, 1695 ; propter magnificentiam, morum suavitatem, hospitalitatem, et benevolentiam, desideratus omnibus proceribus æque ac pauperibus. Juxta etiam hoc monumentum (impensis Henrici Peacocke extractum) Edwardus Heylin Henrici pater, et Elizabetha mater in Christo obdormiunt.

The arms at the top of the monument, are : Three stags' heads proper, on a shield sable, impaled with a saltier, gules, on a field argent.

The only other inscriptions in the church are on flat stones : they are very few, and are as follows :

In the Chancel.

Henry Powell, vicar of this parish, died Feb. 12, 1791, aged 70.

Anna, filia Doctoris Clay, hic jacet, 1616, Jan. 2. Arms : Three fleurs de Lys cheveron embattled.

In the South Transept.

Here lyeth the body of John Wheeler, gent : He had issue by Jane his wife, John, Thomas, Edward, Edmund, Elizabeth, Jane, Anne, Sarah, and Susanna, who departed this life the second day of August, in the year of our Saviour Christ, 1661 : ætatis suæ 36.

There is however, one tomb of very singular workmanship and beauty. It consists of a full length figure of a man, clad in complete armour, lying on a pedestal. The whole pedestal, as well as figure is of marble a little discoloured by age, but still capable of being restored to its original purity. The injuries which it has received from time are not very considerable : there is a partial fissure in the figure, owing to the settlement at one end of the pedestal, and the ornaments on one side of the latter are somewhat mutilated, from that side having been open to a common public sitting. The other side is protected from mischief by the wall of a pew, and is probably therefore in a state of perfect preservation. From what remains and is visible, we may form a

correct judgment of what it originally was, and what it might be made to be again, at a very small expense. The figure itself, and the armour are beautifully chiselled, with the hands clasped, and the head and feet reposing on two pieces of carved work. The carvings on the pedestal consist of smaller figures, and are exquisitely wrought. The coats of arms are worn plain by time, and are not capable of being made out. There is no inscription on this tomb,—so rare in a country church—to say to whose memory it was erected; and tradition is wholly silent on the subject. But there is no doubt that it was built in honor of one of the knights or barons of the Lovel family; and it is a matter of wonder that no other monument is seen in this church to perpetuate the memory of a family so noble, and so long settled in this place.

The vicarage is in the diocese and arch-deaconry of Oxford, and in the patronage of Eton college. The late vicar was the Rev. Michael Mesham, to whom the Rev. Robert Earle, the present incumbent, succeeded in 1818. The value of the living in the king's books is £8. 9s. 7d: it is discharged from the payment of first-fruits.

The parish of Minster Lovel contains, including the roads and free-board, 1939 acres of land.

The manor and fishery, with about 700 acres of land, have passed by purchase from Mr Coke into the hands of William Elias Taunton esq. The other proprietors are John Walker gentleman, John Clinch banker of Witney, Sarah Collis, Frances Sheppard spinster, William Hudson who owns the mill, which is applied as well to fulling Witney blankets, as to grinding corn; Mr Coke, who retains the woods, which are the most extensive and best timbered in the county, the Rev. Mr Earle in right of his vicarage, and Lord Henry Stewart.

The population, &c. of the parish, according to the census of 1821, were as follows: Inhabited houses 57—Agricultural families 44—Traders 19—other families 7—Males 180—Females 146—Total 326.

§ 35. CURBRIDGE—CASWELL HOUSE—THE WENMAN FAMILY.

The small hamlet of Curbridge lies about two miles out of Witney on the Bampton road. It is a lonely looking village, with little to attract notice. Some of the houses appear to be built on the foundations of older edifices, and here and there is seen a wall, evidently of considerable antiquity. Almost half the land belonging to the whole parish of Witney, lies in this hamlet, and a small chapel of ease has lately been built here.

There are also the remains of what was once a fine baronial mansion or castle, now called Caswell House. A large moat runs round it and the solid piers of the great gateway, defended by loop holes on each side for discharging missiles at an assailant, are still to be seen, as depicted in the accompanying etching. The whole is now used as a farm-house, shewing us that the arts of husbandry and of peaceful life will outlive the munitions of war, and the pomp of baronial castles.

I have not been able to discover who were the founders and original-occupiers of this once stately mansion: but the last family of distinction who resided here were the Wenmans, of whom Antony Wood says, in his MSS., that they were originally clothiers of Witney and being the first that used wains or carts with four wheels to carry their cloth to London, were called wainmen, or else the first of them was a driver of a wain. Their old house in Witney was until lately an inn (The Crown to the east of the Town Hall). Within half a mile of Caswell House, is a well in the fields, cased in stone.

To] the above brief notices, may be appended a letter from Edward Dalton esq. of Dunkirk House near Nailsworth, dated March 23, 1843, to the Rev. Thomas Symons, and inserted in that gentleman's Manuscript Collections [viii, 328] of which so much use has been made in this work. "My family were resident freeholders at Curbridge, in the parish of Witney, from before 1570 to 1644, when they followed the declining fortunes of King Charles, and suffered grievously at Newbury. During the above period, their names frequently occur in the parish registers, and



CASWELL HOUSE.



RESTORED VIEW OF MINSTER LEVEL.

church books, as church-wardens, way-wardens, &c. But my wish is to trace above the first named date. In Willis's *Mitred abbies*, vol. ii, p. 188, is this entry: "A pension paid to William Dalton, chantry priest, of Witney, Oxford." "Walter Dotyn, fellow of Exeter College, Oxford, is buried with a monument dated 1603, in St Michael's church, Oxford." This extract from the preamble to my pedigree shews three descents. . . . James was son of Walter Dalton, of Curbridge Court, eldest son of that Walter Dalton, who was grievously wounded in the head, fighting under the royal banner at Newbury battle, where the chief of his house (col. Thomas Dalton, who raised the Dalton regiment of horse for king Charles, as recorded in *England's Bloody Tribunal*) was mortally wounded, and died in Marlborough. There were slain, also, in that fight Charles, Marmaduke, Edward, and William Dalton, of this family." I have also hoped to find, in some private or public collection, some memorial of my family, previous to their migrating from Oxfordshire. The family tradition is, that the money received for the sale of Curbridge was given into his majesty's own hand by Walter Dalton, in a long leathern purse, on the top of the stairs at Christ Church, Oxford. The land bought in Wales with the residue still continues in the family. They were, at the time of the civil wars, for several following generations, intimately connected with the Ashburnhams. EDWARD DALTON.

§ 36. CRAWLEY—HAILEY—ROMAN CAMP ON HAILEY HEATH—
ROMAN ROADS.

Crawley and Hailey, hamlets attached to Witney, are for certain parochial purposes distinct parishes and each of them now has its church or chapel. The chapel at Hailey was built and consecrated in 1761, but that of Crawley only within the last four or five years.

Many years ago, these hamlets were surrounded by very extensive heaths: but these have been much abridged by the enclosure act. Hailey Heath presents a feature of ancient times which has been little noticed by antiquaries—the remains of a Roman camp.

Before the North-leigh portion of the heath was enclosed, at the time of the riots, this earth-work ran along the face of the hill eastward, as far as the Woodstock road, and even now it may be clearly traced : but the plough is rapidly levelling its banks ; it is most perfect at the western end. Tradition still connects the spot with the Romans.

In Woodleys Copse, not far to the east, are some other military remains ; but whether of Roman or Danish origin, cannot now be decided.

There can be no doubt that the Romans left behind them remains of their greatness in this as in every other part of the south of England, and it has been thought that the Akeman street passed very near Witney. I have not been able to verify this supposition, and the means for ascertaining the truth of such traditions become daily more slender, in proportion as tillage alters the appearance of the country. It appears, however, from the subjoined extract of a letter, from a gentleman [Mr Akerman] who has spent some time in the town, that there are still traces of something, which can hardly be explained by any other supposition than that they are the remains of an ancient road which once passed through the town.

“I always conceived that there were remains of a Roman tributary road close to Witney. For instance, there is a foot-path across the crofts, immediately behind Mr Gregory’s garden, running across the centre of the field now occupied (I believe) by Mr T. Shaffrey, and leading to the spring. I have frequently observed after a shower, what I thought to be remains of a very ancient, if not a Roman, way. Large stones, set in a radiating position, may be found in many places there : I have traced the same kind of pitching in a field called Appleby Piece, on the road to Minster Lovel, opposite the Union Workhouse. I always fancied these were portions of one and the same way, but never could find any delineation on maps of Roman ways, to confirm me in my opinion.”

§ 37. STANTON HARCOURT—DEVIL'S COIL.—ENSHAM—CHARLBURY—STONESFIELD—LEA-FIELD— NORTH AND SOUTH LEIGH.

About 4 miles from Witney to the South-east, and 2 miles south from Eynsham, near the river Thames, is STANTON HARCOURT, the ancient seat of the Harcourts, a branch of a noble family in Normandy. The old kitchen is noticed by Dr Plot, being built of stone, square at bottom and octangular above, ending like a tower, and the fires being made against the walls, the smoke ascended up them without any funnels or disturbance to the cooks, and being stopped by a large conical roof, went out at the loop-holes in the sides, which were shut or opened according to the direction of the wind. From the form of the windows, bishop Littleton supposed they were put in, and the whole repaired, about the reign of Henry IV.

Etchings on a large scale have been made of this kitchen and the chapel, which is very ancient, by a former earl. In one of the towers Mr Pope finished his fifth volume of Homer; while his friend Gay was at Cokethorpe, another seat of lord Harcourt. Two miles from hence, in a common field near the house, the two lovers were struck by lightning; and their epitaph by Mr Pope, is in the parish church, as likewise another on the earl of Harcourt.

The principal monuments are in the aisle called Harcourt's chapel, which contains numerous and splendid memorials of the family. The Harcourts chiefly resided at the castle till about the year 1688, after which the mansion twice fell into decay and it was demolished about 1770 with the exception of the gate house, kitchen, and domestic chapel, which still remain entire together with the high and embattled wall which formed the eastern side of the court.

At a short distance from the village are three huge monumental stones called the Devil's Coil, of which the history is entirely a matter of conjecture.

ENSHAM, or Eynsham, by the side of the Thames, is called by Camden a royal villa. Here King Ethelred, by the advice of the

archbishops of Canterbury and York, held a council, in which many decrees were enacted, both ecclesiastical and civil. A monastery of Benedictine monks was founded by Athelmar, or Aylmer, earl of Cornwall and Devon, before the year 1005. About the time of the conquest it was left desolate, and given by Remigius bishop of Lincoln, to the monastery of Stow in Lincolnshire; but restored, and much augmented, on the removal of the abbat and monks from Stow hither, and by lands given by Robert Bloet bishop of Lincoln, in exchange for Newark and Stow. At the dissolution the monastery was granted by Henry VIII to Sir Edward North and William Darcy. In Camden's time the abbey was turned into a private house, and belonged to the earl of Derby.

Six miles north from Witney lies CHARLBURY, a small town on the Evenlode; and near it is Blandford park, a seat, formerly, of the earl of Clarendon, and then called Cornbury; but being a few years since purchased by the duke of Marlborough as a seat for his son the marquis of Blandford, the name of the seat is changed. Two miles east from Charlbury lies STONESFIELD, or Stunsfield, where a large Roman pavement was dug up in the year 1713.

Lea-field is an ancient village about three miles and half north-west of Witney. The church was built some time in the last century, and was repaired and enlarged a few years ago: it has one bell and a clock. There still remains the basis of a cross near which are the stocks and an old tree, at which the people of the village used to meet in former times, as in a market-place. Near this place is an old barrow, which no doubt contains the body of some departed worthy, probably of ancient British origin.

The only other villages, which I shall here notice—and that very briefly—are NORTH and SOUTH LEIGH. At the former the most remarkable object of interest is the foundation of a Roman villa, which was disinterred some years ago, and at the latter is the pulpit in which the famous John Wesley preached his first sermon. An inscription placed at the entrance of the chancel relates that this pulpit together with the pews and the ceiling of

the chancel &c. were the gift of William Gore esq. in the year of our Lord 1712. The basin used formerly for holy water in the Roman Catholic time is still remaining.

§ 38. CHARITABLE FOUNDATIONS.

A passing word may be given at the conclusion of this work, to the numerous public charities which have been founded from time to time for the benefit of Witney and its neighbourhood. To give a full account of these would require a second volume of similar size with the present. The reader is thereof referred to the large volume published by the Commissioners of the public charities, which contains every thing essential on this subject. None of them have been altered since the publication of that volume; but, on the other hand, the estate left by Robert Maddox who died 10 or 12 years ago, has lately fallen into hand, and is now added to the other funds which tend to better the condition of the working classes.

APPENDIX.

1. PLEADINGS IN THE 25TH Q. ELIZABETH.

In the fifteenth year of Q. Elizabeth, A. D. 1573, Thomas Hanks and William Elmer late bailifs of the Town of Witney in Oxfordshire were distrained to answer to the Queen for the price of certain felons' goods. They appear and plead.

De Thoma Hanks et Willelmo Elmer nuper ballivis Villæ de Wytney in comitatu Oxon[iæ] de pretio bonorum et catallorum Thomæ Vause nuper de feloniam attincti exonerandis, et de eisdem bonis et catallis Roberto permissione divina Wintoniensi episcopo virtute literarum patentium nuper regis Henrici Sexti allocatis.

Memorandum quod præceptum fuit vicecomiti Oxoniæ, per breve dominæ reginæ nunc Elizabethæ hujus scaccarii, datum duodecimo die Februarii, anno regni sui quintodecimo, quod non omitteret &c. quin eam &c. Et quod distringeret Thomam Hanks et Willelmum Elmer nuper ballivos villæ de Wytney in comitatu Oxoniæ per terras &c. Ita &c. in crastino clausi Paschæ hoc Terminum, ad respondendum præfatæ Dominæ reginæ nunc de pretio diversorum bonorum et catallorum Thomæ Vause de dicta ballivatorum ballivorum de feloniam attincti et convicti, vel ad ostendendum eidem dominæ reginæ quare inde respondere non debeant; sicut continetur in Compoto forinseco Johannis Croker armigeri nuper vicecomitis comitatus prædicti, nuper computantis de exitibus officii sui prædicti, videlicet a festo sancti Michaelis archangeli anno regni præfatæ dominæ reginæ nunc sexto, usque idem festum sancti Michaelis archangeli tunc proximo sequens, annuo

regni ejusdem dominæ reginæ nunc septimo. Ad quem diem Georgius Danvers armiger vicecomes comitatus prædicti retornavit breve prædictum sibi in præmissis directum. Et mandavit per indorsamentum ejusdem brevis, quod præfati Thomas Hanks et Willelmus Elmer districti sunt, unde exitus &c.

Et modo ad prædictum crastinum clausi Paschæ hoc termino venerunt hic præfati Thomas Hanks et Willelmus Elmer in propriis personis suis. Et petunt auditum brevis prædicti, et eis legitur; petunt etiam auditum prædicti compoti forinseci præfati Johannis Croker armigeri nuper vicecomitis comitatus prædicti, in brevis prædicti superius specificati unde breve illud suam primam cepit originem, et eis legitur quoad bona et catalla præfati Thomæ Vausse in hæc verba. OXONIA, BERKESCIRA: Compotus Johannis Croker armigeri nuper vicecomitis comitatus prædicti, a festo Sancti Michaelis archangeli anno regni dominæ reginæ nunc Elizabethæ, Dei gratia Angliæ Franciæ et Hiberniæ reginæ, fidei defensoris &c. sexto, usque idem festum Sancti Michaelis archangeli tunc proximo sequens, anno regni ejusdem dominæ reginæ nunc septimo, scilicet per unum annum integrum; Terras tenementa bona et catalla attinctorum utlagatorum felonum et fugitivorum in comitatu prædicto, de aliquibus proficuis provenientibus de bonis et catallis diversarum personarum subscriptarum attinctarum in comitatu prædicto infra tempus hujus compoti non respondet, Eo quod eadem bona et catalla ad manus dicti nuper vicecomitis comitatus prædicti minime devenerunt, nec aliqua inde parcella devenit, ut dicit super sacramentum suum, scilicet respondet inferius ballivis de Wytney in prædicto comitatu Oxoniæ, pro pretio bonorum et catallorum Thomæ Vausse de dicta villa de feloniam attincti et convicti, prout in prædicto compoto in curia hic in custodia ingrossatoris magni rotuli hujus scaccarii inter alia plenius continetur. Quo lecto et per præfatos Thomam Hanks et Willelmum Elmer audito et intellecto, iidem Thomas Hanks et Willelmus Elmer protestando dicunt, quod prædictus compotus forinsecus præfati nuper vicecomitis, necnon processus prædictus ex eodem compoto forinseco in forma prædicta emanans,

et materia in eisdem compoto et processu contenta et specificata, minus sufficientia in lege existunt, ad ipsos de aliquibus bonis sive catallis sive de aliquo pretio eorundem, præfatæ dominæ reginæ nunc respondere compellendos. Pro placito dicunt, quod diu ante prædictum tempus dicti compoti præfati nuper vicecomitis, et diu antequam prædictus Thomas Vausse de feloniam attinctus fuit, quidam Henricus nuper Cardinalis Angliæ nuper episcopus Wintoniensis fuit seiscitus de et in manerio de Wytney in prædicto comitatu Oxoniæ cum suis juribus membris et pertinentiis in dominico suo ut de feodo, in jure episcopatus sui Wintoniæ prædicti; et ipse sic inde seiscitus existens—*Here follows a pleading of divers matters.* Et dicunt ulterius prædicti Thomas Hanks et Willelmus Elmer, quod prædicta villa de Wytney in dicto compoto et in brevi prædicto superius specificata, prædicto tempore confectionis dictarum literarum patentium dicti nuper regis Henrici sexti, et postea prædicto tempore convictionis et attincturæ dicti Thomæ Vausse, fuit et modo est parcella prædicti manerii de Wytney cum suis juribus membris et pertinentiis, de quo præfatus Henricus nuper episcopus Wintoniæ prædicto tempore confectionis dictarum literarum patentium fuit in forma prædicta seiscitus, et de quo præfatus nunc episcopus prædicto tempore attincturæ et convictionis præfati Thomæ Vausse fuit et modo est in forma prædicta seiscitus, Quodque præfatus Thomas Vausse prædicto tempore feloniam suæ prædictæ perpetratæ et commissæ, et prædicto tempore attincturæ et convictionis suæ prædictæ, fuit tenens prædicti nunc episcopi unius tenementi in Wytney prædicta, parcellæ prædicti manerii ejusdem episcopi de Witney prædicta, et residens infra idem manerium. Quæ omnia et singula præfati Thomas Hanks et Willelmus Elmer parati sunt verificare prout curia &c; unde non intendunt quod dicta domina regina nunc ipsos in præmissis ulterius impetere seu occasionare velit. Et petunt judicium quod ipsi, quoad ulterius respondendum præfatæ dominæ reginæ nunc in præmissis, ab hac curia dimittantur. Et quia curia vult habere deliberationem in præmissis antequam ulterius &c. datus est dies præfatis Thomæ Hanks et Willelmo Elmer in statu quo nunc

usque a die sanctæ trinitatis in quindecim dies, ad audiendum et faciendum quod &c. Ad quem diem dicti Thomas et Willelmus venerunt hic in propriis personis suis. Et ob causam prædictam habent diem alterius in stata quo nunc, usque a die Sancti Michaelis in quindecim dies, ad audiendum et faciendum quod &c. Ad quem diem prefati Thomas et Willelmus solemniter vocati in præmissis, non venerunt sed defaultam fecerunt, nec habuerunt in præmissis ulteriorem diem per quod prædictum placitum suum discontinuatur. Super quo præceptum fuit vicecomiti dicti comitatus Oxoniæ, quod non omitteret &c. quin eam &c. et quod distringeret prefatos Thomam Hanks et Willelmum Elmer ut prius per terras &c. Ita &c. in Octavis Sanctæ Trinitatis. Ad quem diem vicecomes non retornavit breve. Ideo &c. Ita &c.; sicut continetur in memorandis de anno vicesimo primo reginæ nunc, Hilarii brevia retornabilia rotulo... Ideo non fiat hic ulterius executio. *Pat. communis 15 Eliz. Rot. 2.*

2. ORIGINAL ACT OF PARLIAMENT FOR WITNEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL. A. D. 1664.

ANNO REGNI CAROLI II, regis Angliæ, Scotiæ, Franciæ et Hiberniæ decimo quinto. *At the parliament begun at Westminster the 8th day of May, anno Domini 1661. In the 13th year of the reign of our most gracious sovereign lord Charles, by the grace of God, of England, Scotland, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, &c. And there continued till the 19th of May, in the 14th year of his majestie's said reign, and thence prorogued to the 18th of February then next following. And there continued to the 27th of July, in the 15th year of his majesty's reign: and thence prorogued to the 16th of March then next following. London: printed by John Bill and Christopher Barker, printers to the king's most excellent majesty. 1664. Cum privilegio.*

ANNO XV CAROLI II REGIS. AN ACT FOR THE SETTLING OF A PRESCHOOL IN WITNEY IN THE COUNTY OF OXON, BEING

ERECTED AND ENDOWED BY HENRY BOX, CITIZEN AND GROCER
OF LONDON, DECEASED.

Whereas Henry Box, citizen and grocer of London, lately deceased, hath, out of a sincere intention of public good, at his own proper costs and charges, in his life time, erected a large free-school, with a very fair house for one schoolmaster and one usher, standing upon two acres of ground, in Witney, in the county of Oxon : and also, by his will in writing declared his intention to settle the said house and two acres of land, and also fifty pounds per annum rent charge to be issuing out of his lands in the parish of Longworth in the county of Berks, then or now in the occupation of John Couldry or his assigns, by lease for years, under the rent of one hundred and fifty pounds per annum. And further declared, that his intention was to have the same settled upon the four wardens of the fraternity of the art or mystery of grocers in the city of London, for the maintenance of the said free-school, schoolmaster and usher ; and thereupon his relict and executrix, Mary Box, hath humbly prayed, that it may be enacted :

Be it therefore enacted by the king's most excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the lords spiritual and temporal and the commons assembled in parliament, and by the authority of the same, that for ever hereafter there be and shall be in the town of Witney in the County of Oxon, One free Grammar school for education and instruction of children and youth, which shall be called the free Grammar School of the foundation of Henry Box. And that there be for ever hereafter, one master, and one usher of the said school.

And for the better effecting of the pious intentions of him the said Henry Box, and that such rent charge, or lands, tenements, and hereditaments as have been, or may be by virtue of this act, granted, purchased or assigned to so good a work, may be the better ordered and governed for the continuance and maintenance of the said free-school : be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid that the said four wardens of the said company

of grocers London for the time being, and their successors, wardens of the same fraternity, be, and shall be governors of the revenues and possessions of the free grammar school of Witney in the county of Oxon, of the foundation of Henry Box; and they the said wardens of the company of grocers for the time being, and their successors, are hereby made, constituted, created, and ordained governors of the possessions and revenues of the said free grammar-school of Witney in the said county of Oxon, of the foundation of the said Henry Box, and that they and their successors be, and shall be for ever hereafter, in deed, fact and name, one body corporate and politic of themselves, to be called and known by the name of the governours of the free grammar school of Witney in the county of Oxon, of the foundation of the said Henry Box, and of the possessions and revenues thereof: and that by the same name for ever hereafter they shall be known, called and named, and shall have perpetual succession: and they the said governours and their successors are hereby incorporated and made one body corporate and politic, by the same name for ever really and fully to continue, and by the same name may sue and be sued, plead and be impleded, answer and be answered unto in all and singular causes, suits and actions, real, personal and mixt, and in all and all manner of other suits and causes whatsoever, of what nature kind or quality soever, in whatsoever courts or places in this realm or elsewhere, and to do and execute all other things as amply as any person or persons capable in law, or as any other body corporate or politic in this realm may or can do or execute; and that they and their successors shall be for ever hereafter seised of the said school, house, two acres of land, and of the said rent charge of fifty pounds per annum, the said rent to be paid at the feast of Saint Michael the archangel, and the Annunciation of our blessed lady Mary the virgin, or within twenty days after the said feasts, by equal portions and payments; and shall from time to time for ever hereafter have power to distrain for the said rent, or any part thereof, or take or use any other lawful means for the same (to the use of the said free

grammar school) which shall happen to be behind on the days and times whereon the same is or shall be limited to be paid. And that they the said governours and their successors for ever hereafter, shall have a common seal to be used for the ensealing of their affairs and business relating to the said grammar-school, and the possessions and revenues thereof; and that they may, or shall break, alter, change, and new make their said common seal, when, and as often as to them it shall seem necessary and convenient.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Mary Box, during her natural life, shall have, and hath hereby given and granted to her, full power and authority to order and govern the said free school, and the lands and possessions granted and to be granted to the said governors for the use of the said school, and to place and appoint learned and discreet persons to be school-master and usher of the said free grammar school.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the said Mary Box, during her natural life according to the intention of the said Henry Box) shall and may ordain such convenient and wholesome statutes, constitutions and ordinances in writing, not repugnant to the laws of this realm, touching and concerning the election, nomination, deprivation, removal, order, government and direction of the school-master, usher, and scholars there being from time to time respectively, as shall be held meet: and also touching and concerning the stipends and salaries of the school-master and usher of the said free grammar school. And in case the said Mary shall happen to die before such orders and constitutions made, that then the same shall be made by the said governors for the time being.

And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, that the governors, school-master, and usher of the said school, and every of them, do and shall, before they or any of them respectively enter into, or intermeddle with the said office or places, or any of them, take the several oaths of allegiance and supremacy, before such person or persons as by the laws of this land are, or hereafter

but before the steward, the surveyor, the clerke of the bishopricke nor within unless it bee in sicknes or att the point of death before the bayliffe or the clerke of the bayliewicke.

13. If anie tenant shall die to whome a surrender is made before hee shall fine, if one proclamation bee made in the court after that the surrender is soe made, that lande which is so surrendered is escheated unto the lord.

14. Assert landes doe owe suite unto the lord's court as customary tenants doe.

15. The tenants doe pay for knowledge money * on the first coming of the bishopp which is leavied after this manner, viz. for every yard land 2s. for every half yarde lande 12d. for every cosett lande 6d. and perpresture land and assert landes shall pay the third part of their rent—viz. for every acre 2d.

4. CHARGE TO A JURY OF INQUISITION CONCERNING THE MANOR, Sept. 9, 1647.

Articles to be inquired of by the Jury at a Court of Survey for the manor of Witney, Sept. the 9th, 1647.

1. You shall inquire what houses, edifices and buildings, what honors, mannors, lordships, messuages, lands, tenements, leaseowes, rents, reversions, mannors, services, annuities, possessions, privileges, liberties, immunities, and hereditaments, are lying and being within this manor, which did at any time belong to the bishop of Winton, or any persons in trust for him, what and how much is possession within reversion, and what is the yearly value.

* Note by the Rev. T. Symonds: "An Antiquarian friend of mine imagines this KNOWLEDGE MONEY—to be a fine due to the Bp of Winchester in lieu of his privilege of sleeping the first night with the bride.

I fancy that it may rather be a fine due to the Lord of the manor on his first appearance among the tenants. As yet I have not been able to get any thing more than conjecture on this subject."

3. CUSTOMS OF WITNEY MANOR.

A Breviate of certaine Customes of the Mannor of Wittney, taken out of the old Customary made in the XXI yeare of the Raigne of Henry the third (1237) as followeth.

1. The eldest sonne or daughter shall inheritt the lands after the death of their ancestor, viz : in customary, assart, and demensne lands lett by copy.

2. The wife, after the death of the husband, shall holde the customary lands, soe long as shee shall remaine a widow ; but she shall not hold assart lands nor demesne lands.

3. The husband ought to fine for his wife being heirot to customary lands, and to pay the halfe of the old precedent fine, and in assert and demesne lands he ought not to fine for his wife, but hee shall hold the lands in right of his wife without fine.

4. Every yarde lande and half yarde lande shall pay for an herriott his best beast, as well after death as after surrender, and, although there bee more yarde landes or half yarde landes under one fine, yet they shall pay but one herriott.

5. Cott landes and demesne landes pay noe herriott but fine onlie.

6. Assert landes doth pay noe herriott, but fine, viz. for every acre by surrender 2s. and for every acre by death 12d.

7. The freeholders doe pay noe relieves after death, as they say.

8. The customary tenante may not cutt nor fell timber growing upon their tenures without Licence.

9. The Tenante that holds the assert landes may cutt and fell timber, and all other trees uppon their assert lands att their pleasure, without licence, and shall not bee punished for wast.

10. Noe tenant may lett his landes without licens of the lord first obtained.

11. If auie shall not come in and fine for their copyhold landes at the third Proclamation, hee shall lose the land, and at the first and second proclamation hee shall onlie bee amerced.

12. A tenant may not surrender the lands out of the lordship

removed any meer stone or other bound between the hedges demesnes, and the tenants and freeholders or customary land of inheritance, where is any such offence committed, by whom, and whether ought the bounds so removed to stand.

10. You are also to present, what fishings several and common are in this manor belonging to the lord, and whether hath any other lord an interest therein, what waters and watercourses are within this manor belonging to the lord hath any other right or title thereunto, but by and under the lord according to the custom of the manor.

11. You shall inquire what fines and amercements are due on death or alienation of tenants, and what fairs, marketts, escheats, reliefs, herriotts, or other perquisites, are likewise due and what are the true value thereof.

12. Whether you have any deeds or evidences, court rolls, rentalls, suit rolls, custom rolls, books of survey, accounts touching or concerning this manor, if you have any, produce them, or if you know whether any such be, discover them to this court.

13. You shall inquire of pasture, that is in common, what commons there are within this manor, which do appertain to the lord and tenant, how many beasts it will keep, and other cattle and what the lord may have in the same, how are the tenants stinted, how many may every tenant keep, and after what proportion or rate.

5. PRESENTATION, Sept. 20, 1647.

The customs of the manor of Witney in the county of Oxford, presented at a court of survey by the Jury, holden and passed on the two and twentieth day of Sept. 1647 (as followeth).

IMPRIMIS: We present that we the tenants of this manor ought to have a steward or bailiff and a tithingman or reeve in every tithing, and that they ought to be sworn men to do right between lord and tenant, when they come into those places.

2. ITEM : We present, that the eldest son or daughter shall inherit the lands of their ancestors, in customary assart and demesne, or cott. lands or purpresture lands, all that holdeth by copy.

3. ITEM : We present, that the wife, after the decease of the husband, shall hold the customary lands, so long as she shall remain a widow, but she shall not hold assart lands nor demesne lands nor cott. lands nor purpresture lands, unless it be surrendered to her before the steward, or bailiff, and two of the tenants, or two of the tythingmen, and two of the tenants or more.

4. ITEM : We present, that every yard-land or half yard land of customary land, shall pay to the lord for a herriott his best one goods for his own, as after a cleared surrender, that he dieth seized of, that is his own proper goods or the like, if he surrender clearly. And, altho there be more yard lands or half yard lands under one fine, yet there shall pay but one herriott only.

5. ITEM : We present, that the tenants that hold assart or demesne or cott. lands or purpresture land, may set or let, or cut or fell timber and all other trees or wood, or dig stone or mortar in their own ground at their pleasure without licence, and shall not be punished for it.

6. ITEM : We present, that, if any copyholder's lands falleth into the lord's hands by escheate, or any other way default, he is to refine for it again, and his fine is certain upon his copy, and paying that fine so expressed to the lord he is to have his estate confirmed again to him and his heirs.

7. ITEM : We present that no customary tenant, shall set his land for term of years, but he shall first ask the lord for a licence, but if denied he may set it without licence for their licence, at their strictest rate they are not to pay above the fine expressed upon the copy of the land that they let or set.

8. ITEM : We present, that according to evidence given that lands lying in Gold Clift, and North Furlong, and Ash Furlong, of demesne land in the tything of Curbridge, that the common thereof belongs not to the tenant only but 13s. 4d. up.....day

being the twenty second day of September, the lord is to put in his cattle in the morning if he pleases, and the tenants in the afternoon, if the grass or corn be off, and so continue till the grass or corn be sown or coming up again, and no longer, and in the mean while the tenant is to put it to the best profit he can for his own use.

9. ITEM : We present, that the tenants of this manor have right of free hunting in the chases.

10. ITEM : We present, if any woman hath any estate of land of her own or her husband's, she cannot pass it away by surrender by bailiff or tithingman, but belongeth wholly to the steward or his deputy first to examine the woman, then to pass the surrender, and he is to have for his pains 6s. 8d. for her examination, and 1s. for surrender, and 1s. apiece for every condition, be they more or less, for his recording of it, he is to have 2s. for the copy at the delivering of it to the owner and 1s. for every condition as aforesaid.

11. ITEM : We present, likewise, that the bailiff may take a surrender in any part of the manor, with two or more of the tenants being by, but not out of the manor without a deputation from the steward, unless it be in case of necessity, the party being lame or sick, and he is to have for his pains 1s. for a surrender, and for every condition as aforesaid : and likewise the tithingman may take a surrender in his own tithing, as well as the steward or bailiff, without any woman have any estate in the land then it belongs to the steward to examine the woman only, and further, if the tythingman cannot write, he may take a surrender by word of mouth with two or more of the tenants being by, and he is to have for his trouble 4d. according to the old custom of the manor, and he is to present the surrender before the jury so taken into the next court upon his oath, and the steward is to record as our old ancient custom is, and he is to have for his pains 2s. upon the delivery of the copy to the party that oweth him and for every condition (as aforesaid).

12. ITEM : We present, that the bailiff of the manor is to

gather the lord's rents of the tenants twice in the year, once at our Lady day, and then at Michaelmas, and, in case he cannot have it, he is to distrain for it.

13. ITEM: We present, that there are several priviledges, liberties, and immunities, belonging unto us, with the rest of the tenants of the late bishop of Winchester, granted by the charters of several kings of this realm, unto which custom and charters we refer ourselves, and unto which several priviledges, liberties, and immunities, we do lay claim as belonging unto us.

CURBRIDGE.	CRAWLEY.	HAILEY.
Stephen Brice	George Dely	John Yates
Robert Wright	Henry Selman	Richard Taylor
Thomas White	Edward Fitchett	Bartholomew Harris
Richard Slatter		Richard Horne
Andrew Dolton		Richard Smith
Nicholas Constable		John Smith
Richard Wright		

6. INDEX TO THE BY-LAWS RULES AND ORDERS OF THE COMPANY OF BLANKETT-WEAVERS.

Master.

By the Charter, 23d May, 10th Ann.

The Master, Assistants and Wardens or major part (whereof Master to be one,) on two days' notice, in court assembled, to elect yearly on Munday before the first day of Michas: term, or within 14 days after, a Master out of the Assistants of the company.

In case of death, Assistants on due notice to choose another master.

Master shall take an oath for the due execution of his office, to be administered by any three of the Assistants.

10th August, 1711.

A bye-law ordains that the Master elect do take an oath (therein referr'd to) within 6 days after election and notice thereof to him given, and pay to the use of the company 10s.

Master offending against this ordinance to forfeit 40s.

Master to have the custody of one of the keys of the chest or box wherein the writings, books &c. of the company are kept.

Master and Wardens if required by two thirds of Assistants on entering into their respective offices to give security to the two senior Assistants for the safe keeping of all books and writings evidences money and securitys for money belonging to the company which shall be in their custody during their continuance in office and for their accounting for the same on their leaving their said offices or at such other time as the major part of the Master Assistants and Wardens shall appoint on pain of forfeiting for refusing so to do, £20.

9th Novr, 1784.

Master not to bring to the Annual Feast more than Twenty Persons.

16th August, 1785.

Order that the Master shall not keep any Journeymen's Feast in future.

Assistants.

By the Charter.

In case of death or removal of Assistants the Master Assistants and Wardens or major part (whereof master to be one) on two days' notice in court assembled may elect others out of the Wardens and commonalty.

May make the number 20.

Assistants to take an oath for the due execution of office to be administered by the master.

Master Assistants and Wardens or major part (whereof master to be one) in court assembled have power and authority to remove any Assistants for reasonable and just cause.

10 August 1711. By-Law of that date ordains that every mem-

ber of the company who shall there after be chosen an Assistant of the company shall within six days after such election and notice thereof given, take the oath (therein referred to) and pay to the use of the company 10s.

Every member offending against said ordinance to forfeit 20s.

Wardens.

By the Charter.

Master Assistants and Wardens or major part (whereof master to be one) on two days notice in court assembled to elect yearly on Monday before the first day of Michas: Term, or within 14 days after, two Wardens out of the commonalty of said company.

Wardens to take an oath for the due Execution of office to be administered by the Master or Assistants or any three of them.

10th August, 1711.

By-Law ordains that each Warden elect shall take an oath (therein referred to) in three days after election and notice thereof given, and on refusal to take the oath and office to forfeit to the company 40s.

The senior Wardens to have the custody of one of the keys of the box or chest wherein the company's books, writings, evidences, money and securities for money are kept.

Wardens to account in manner before mentioned (page xvi) on pain of £20.

Either of the wardens neglecting or refusing to do his duty in making distresses, summoning the company, collecting the quarterage or otherwise to forfeit for every such neglect or refusal 20s.

9th Nov. 1784.

Wardens to bring no more than two persons each to the Annual Feast.

Members of the Company.

By the Charter.

To admit all persons inhabiting within the limits, duly qualified to carry on, use, and exercise the said trade.

10th August 1711.

By-Law of that date ordains that each member on admission

shall pay towards the company's stock, the sum of 10s : And the further sum of 3s. 6d. to the clerk for swearing, entering and registering such admission, together with the stamp duty.

And each member shall pay to the use of the company 4s. yearly, viz. on Saint Michael the archangel ; St Thomas the apostle ; The annunciation of the blessed virgin Mary ; and St Jhon the baptist, by equal portions, to be seized by the Wardens.

Each member disobeying a summons (on two days notice) to attend any court of the company, to forfeit 1s.

Each member who shall misbehave himself at any court or meeting either to the Master or any of the Assistants or Wardens shall forfeit to the Company 2s.

And if to any of the Commonalty 1s.

Each member shall employ one journeyman to each loom, if any shall offer, on pain of forfeiting 5s.

No member shall employ any woman or girl to work in any loom without employing such journeymen on pain of forfeiting for each offence 5s.

12th May, 1719.

By-Law of that date ordains that no person not being a freeman of the company shall set up, use, exercise or occupy the art, craft, mistery or manual occupation of a Blankettweaver in Witney or within 20 miles thereof on pain of forfeiting to the use of the said company for each day he shall so use and exercise the said trade 20s.

5th Janry, 12th Ann.

No member shall employ any journeyman before he shall be registered as a journeyman, pursuant to the by-law of that date on pain of 20s.

Employing another Member's Journeyman : see Journeymen.

9th Novr, 1784. Each Member to bring one person only to the annual feast.

Journeymen

5th Janry, 12th Ann. Ordained that all journeymen, qualified

to exercise the trade, shall on notice given to the master of the company or Wardens, cause themselves to be registered as journey-men—and no member shall employ any journeyman not registered on pain of 20s.

16th August, 1785.

Order that the Master shall keep no journeyman's feast in future.

14th February, 1748.

Order that no member shall employ any journeyman employed by any other member without the consent of his first master—and upon notice given him or any of his family by the Master or Wardens for the time being he shall discharge such journeymen immediately on pain of 40s.

Apprentices.

10th August, 1711.

By-Law ordains that no member of the company shall take any apprentice till such member shall have followed the trade three years for himself on pain of forfeiting to the company £10.

And that no apprentice shall be set to work by any member of the company before he shall be presented to the master of the said company for the time being to be seen and examined on pain of forfeiting to the company 5 shillings.

Every such apprentice so presented shall be bound by the clerk of the said company and be registered in a book to be kept for that purpose, and there shall be paid to the master of the said company for the time being for such entry 2s: (viz) one half towards the company's stock and the other half to the clerk for such entry.

4th Janry, 1757.

An order that no member shall take more than one apprentice at any one time on pain of 20s.

31st October, 1763.

A Bye Law pursuant to the above order.

19th June, 1781.

Order that all apprentices shall be of the age of 12 years at least at the time of binding.

4th June, 1793.

Order that all apprentices shall be of the age of 13 years at least at the commencement of the term.

Hall keepers.

By the Charter and Bye-Laws.

All Hall-keepers and other Inferior officers to be chosen and sworn by the Master Assistants and Wardens in court assembled.

Bye-Laws.

By the Charter.

The Master, Assistants, Wardens and commonalty or the major part of them to make Bye-Laws at a general Court.

Hallage of Goods.

13th May, 1755.

Bye-Law—That each stockful of blanketts, shaggs, stripes and stuffs shall be carried from the respective fulling mills where the same shall be tucked dressed and dried to the common hall to be viewed weighed and measured on pain of 5£. each stockful.

23d June, 1759.

Bye-Law—That each stockful of blanketts, shaggs, stripes and stuffs shall be numbered progressively on pain of forfeiting 5£. for each stockful—And shall not be sent from the place where manufactured to the fulling-mill to be tucked dressed and dried without being first brought to the common hall to be entered on pain of forfeiting for each stockful £5.

18th March, 1769.

Bye-Law that no stripes shall be halled as coating or stuffs.

29 March, 1720.

Blanketts, shaggs, stripes and stuffs not to be made either wider or longer after having passed the hall on pain of 40s.

Stuffs.

4th Decr, 1769.

Bye-Law, Ordains That each stockful of stuffs made for cloaths shall have a list of coloured yarn on both sides—And no such stuffs to be cornered on pain of 20s.

18th March, 1769.

No coating to have any stripe, only a list of coloured yarn to each silvage and a head at each end.

Silvage.

7th Janry, 1766.

Order that all shaggs, stripes, stuffs, and other blanketts (except 5 quarter blanketts only) shall have a silvage on each side under the penalty of 20s.

8th Febry, 1790.

Order—that 5 quarter blanketts only having two silvages may be cut in two,

Tearing off from the stockful.

5th Janry, 12th Ann.

Bye-Law ordains that each member of the company who shall tear off any blankett or part of a blankett from the stockful before the same shall be brought to the hall to be viewed weighed and measured shall forfeit for each offence 20s.

6th Febry, 1790.

Five quarter blanketts only having two silvages may be cut in two.

Blanketts.

By the several Bye Laws rules orders and ordinances of the said company every stockful of blanketts is to be of the respective weight and number of blanketts therein and each blankett of the length and breadth after mentioned under the penalty of one shilling for each pound weight each stockful shall be deficient of such weight. And 20s: for each stockful that shall exceed the number, or wherein any blankett shall be of greater length or breadth than the same is respectively directed to be. And each blankett to have two shoots of coloured yarn weaved at each end on pain of 20s.

12 June, 1759.

Each stockful to be numbered under penalty of £5.

7. COPY OF LETTERS PATENTS TO COMPANY OF BLANKET WEAVERS, 23d MAY—10th OF QUEEN ANN—1710.

ANN *by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, queen, defender of the Faith, and so forth : To all to whom these presents shall come, greeting.*—Whereas divers of our well beloved subjects, the blankett weavers inhabiting in and near Witney, in our county of Oxon, in behalf of themselves and others following the said trade, complaining of many frauds and abuses of late practised in the deceitful working up of blanketts, to the great scandall, impoverishment, and decay of the said trade and the manufactures thereof, which for want of some established government amongst them they are not able to prevent; And having therefore by their petition humbly prayed us to be incorporated, for the preservation and improvement of the said trade and manufacture, with such powers and restrictions as to us should seem meet: WEE, being willing to encourage and promote all arts and manufactures tending to the public good, are graciously pleased to condescend to their request. KNOW YE, therefore, that wee of our especial grace, certain knowledge, and meer motion, HAVE granted, constituted, declared, ordained, and appointed, and by these presents, for us, our heirs and successors, DOE grant, constitute, declare, ordain, and appoint, that all and every such persons, *who are qualified by law as blankett weavers* to use and exercise the art and mistery of blankett weaving *in Witney aforesaid or twenty miles* round the same, be incorporated by the name of THE MASTER, ASSISTANTS, WARDENS AND COMMONALTY of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, and them by the name of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, we do really and fully, for us our heirs and successors, make, erect, ordain, constitute, establish, confirm, and declare, by these presents, to be one *body corporate and politick* in deed and in name for ever.

And we do hereby for us, our heirs, and successors, grant and

declare, that by the same name of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof they shall have perpetual succession, and by that name for ever hereafter shall and may plead and be impleaded, sue and be sued, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in whatsoever courts and places, and before any judges, justices and officers of us, our heirs and successors, in all and singular actions, pleas, suits, matters, and demands of what nature, kind, or quality soever they shall be, in the same manner and form, and as fully and as amply, as any of our subjects, within that part of our united kingdom of great Britain called England, may or can do, plead or be impleaded, sue or be sued, answer or be answered unto, defend or be defended. And that the said company of the master, assistants, wardens, and commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon or within twenty miles thereof, and their successors for ever hereafter, shall and may have and use a common seal for the affairs and business of the said corporation : and the same seal from time to time, at their will and pleasure, break, change, alter, or make new, as to them shall seem expedient.

And further, for the due and orderly regulating and government of the said corporation hereby made and erected, we will and by these presents for us our heirs and successors do grant, declare, ordain and appoint, that from henceforth for ever there shall be a High Steward, one Master, eight or more Assistants and two Wardens of the said company. The said assistants not to exceed twenty in number to be constituted and chosen in such manner as hereafter in these presents is expressed and specified. And, for the better execution of our royal will and pleasure herein, we have made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, nominate, constitute and appoint our right trusty and right well beloved cousin and councillor, Henry earl of Rochester, to be the first and present High Steward of the said company to continue during his life. And that all future high stewards of the said

company shall and may be elected by the master, assistants and wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice in court assembled, and to continue during life.

And we have made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute and appoint our well beloved subject John White senior, to be the first and present master of the said company hereby incorporated, to continue in the said office till the Monday before the first day of Michaelmas term next ensuing the date of these presents and from thence until some other fit person shall be duly elected, sworn and admitted into the said office.

And we have likewise made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed; and do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute, and appoint, our well beloved subjects Thomas Early, Thomas Johnson, Edward Bird, Michael Boughin, William Rogers, William Jones, William Townsend, Thomas Boulton, and the said master to be the first and present assistants of the said company, To HOLD and enjoy their said several and respective offices for and during their said several and respective lives, unless they or any of them shall happen to be removed for reasonable and just cause by the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice, in court assembled: To whom we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors give full power and authority to remove any of the said assistants of the said company from time to time accordingly.

And we have also made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute, and appoint, our well beloved subjects, William Boughin and John Cowell, to be the first and present wardens of the said company to continue in their said respective offices till the Monday before the first day of Michael-

mas Term next ensuing the date of these presents, and from thence until other fit persons shall be duly elected, sworn and admitted into the said office.

And further we will and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, do grant to the Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty of blankettweavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof aforesaid, and their successors, that they and their successors for ever shall and may have one honest and discreet person to be clerk of the said company, and we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, do assign, nominate, constitute and appoint, our well beloved subject James Hale gent. to be the first and present clerk of the said company, To hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office of clerk of the said company by himself or his sufficient deputy for and during his life, unless he shall happen to be removed, for reasonable and just cause, by the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice in court assembled, to whom we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, give full power and authority to remove the clerk of the said company from time to time accordingly. And that after the death or removal of the said James Hall, all future clerks of the said company shall and may be, from time to time, chosen by the Master Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice in court assembled, and shall hold and enjoy the said office during the pleasure of the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company.

And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, grant unto the Master, Assistants and Wardens, and commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon or within twenty miles thereof aforesaid and their successors, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Assistants, and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice, in court

company shall and may be elected by the master, assistants and wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice in court assembled, and to continue during life.

And we have made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute and appoint our well beloved subject John White senior, to be the first and present master of the said company hereby incorporated, to continue in the said office till the Monday before the first day of Michaelmas term next ensuing the date of these presents and from thence until some other fit person shall be duly elected, sworn and admitted into the said office.

And we have likewise made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed; and do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute, and appoint, our well beloved subjects Thomas Early, Thomas Johnson, Edward Bird, Michael Boughin, William Rogers, William Jones, William Townsend, Thomas Boulton, and the said master to be the first and present assistants of the said company, To HOLD and enjoy their said several and respective offices for and during their said several and respective lives, unless they or any of them shall happen to be removed for reasonable and just cause by the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice, in court assembled: To whom we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors give full power and authority to remove any of the said assistants of the said company from time to time accordingly.

And we have also made, ordained, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, make, ordain, nominate, constitute, and appoint, our well beloved subjects, William Boughin and John Cowell, to be the first and present wardens of the said company to continue in their said respective offices till the Monday before the first day of Michael-

mas Term next ensuing the date of these presents, and from thence until other fit persons shall be duly elected, sworn and admitted into the said office.

And further we will and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, do grant to the Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty of blankettweavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof aforesaid, and their successors, that they and their successors for ever shall and may have one honest and discreet person to be clerk of the said company, and we have assigned, nominated, constituted, and appointed, and by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, do assign, nominate, constitute and appoint, our well beloved subject James Hale gent. to be the first and present clerk of the said company, To hold, exercise, and enjoy the said office of clerk of the said company by himself or his sufficient deputy for and during his life, unless he shall happen to be removed, for reasonable and just cause, by the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice in court assembled, to whom we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, give full power and authority to remove the clerk of the said company from time to time accordingly. And that after the death or removal of the said James Hall, all future clerks of the said company shall and may be, from time to time, chosen by the Master Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them (whereof the master to be one) on two days' notice in court assembled, and shall hold and enjoy the said office during the pleasure of the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company.

And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, grant unto the Master, Assistants and Wardens, and commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon or within twenty miles thereof aforesaid and their successors, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Assistants, and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice, in court

assembled, to elect yearly, on the Monday before the first day of Michaelmas term, or within fourteen days after, a Master of the Assistants of the said company and the two Wardens of the Commonalty thereof.

And that it shall and may be lawful to and for the assistants of the said company, or the major part of them, upon due notice to all the assistants thereof, from time to time, upon the death of a master or wardens of the said company, to choose another master out of the assistants of the said company and other wardens of the commonalty thereof. And that such persons as shall have served the office of master or warden, be capable of being chosen master or wardens again.

AND OUR WILL AND PLEASURE is, and we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, ordain and appoint, that upon the death or removal of any of the assistants of the said company, it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Assistants, and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice, in court assembled, to elect others in their places, out of the warden and commonalty of the said company. And that the said court shall and may make up the number of the assistants twenty when they shall see occasion. And likewise that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Assistants, and Wardens, of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice in court assembled, from time to time to choose and continue all inferior officers at their will and pleasure. And of our special grace, knowledge, and meer motion, we have granted, ordained, appointed, and by those presents, for us our heirs and successors do grant, ordain, and appoint, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the Master, Assistants, and Wardens of the said company for the time being, or the major part of them, from time to time to admit into the said company all and every person and person inhabiting within or without the limits aforesaid being qualified to use and exercise the said art and mystery, who

desire to become members of the said company. And that no person be admitted to any office belonging to the said company, until he shall have taken an oath for the due execution thereof, as hereafter in those presents is directed. And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, ordain, direct, and appoint, that the present Master and Assistants of the said company shall, before they be admitted to their several and respective offices, take an oath for the due execution of the same before one or more Justice or Justices of the peace in our said county of Oxon, to whom we do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, give full power and authority to administer the same accordingly. And that afterwards the Wardens shall in like manner, before they be admitted to their respective offices, take an oath for the due execution of the same, before the Master and Assistants of the said company or the major part of them, to whom we do by these presents, for us our heirs and successors, give full power and authority to administer the same accordingly. And that for the future it shall and may be lawful to and for the Assistants of the said company, or any three of them, to administer such oath to the Master, and the Master afterwards to the Assistants. And the Master or Assistants or any three of them afterwards to the Wardens, or any other officer belonging to the said company. To all and each of whom we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, give full power and authority to administer the same accordingly.

And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, give and grant unto the Master, Assistants, Wardens and Commonalty of blankett weavers, inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, aforesaid or their successors, or the major part of them, whereof the master to be one, on two days' notice, full power and authority to keep a court where, when, and as often as they shall see convenient, within the limits aforesaid. And, that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Master Assistants Wardens and Commonalty, or the major part of them, in a general court assembled there, to consult concerning the

affairs and business of the said company, and to prepare, make, ordain, and constitute, such and so many good and wholesome by-laws, rules, orders, and ordinances for the regulating of the said trade, and preventing abuses therein, by the members of the said company, and for the well ordering, rule and government of the said company and the members thereof, and also to set, impose, and inflict reasonable pains, penalties, and punishments, fines, amerciaments or otherwise upon such offender or offenders, as shall transgress, break, or violate the said by-laws, rules, orders, or ordinances, so to be made as aforesaid. And likewise that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said court, the said by-laws, rules, orders, or ordinances to alter, annul or make void, as to them shall seem expedient. PROVIDED always that the said by-laws, rules, orders and ordinances, be reasonable and not repugnant or contrary to law. And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, grant unto the Master, Assistants and Wardens of the said company for the time being, whereof the Master for the time being to be one, full power and authority to put the said by-laws, rules, orders, and ordinances in execution and the said pains and penalties, from time to time, to mitigate or remit, as to them shall seem meet and expedient, which said fines and amerciaments we will and do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, grant shall and may be levied, sued for, taken, retained, and recovered by the Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty of blankett weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof. To the sole use, benefit and advantage of the Master, Assistants, Wardens and Commonalty of blankett weavers, inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, aforesaid, and their successors without any account or accounts to be rendered to us or our heirs or successors for the same. All and singular which said by-laws, rules, orders, and ordinances, so as aforesaid to be made we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, will and command shall be duly observed and kept, under the pains and penalties therein contained.

And we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, will, require, authorize, and command, all and singular our Judges, Justices of the peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, Head-boroughs, and all other the officers and ministers whatsoever, of us our heirs and successors, for the time being, that they and every of them respectively be, from time to time, in their several and respective offices, favouring, aiding and assisting unto the Master, Assistants, Wardens and Commonalty of blankett weavers, inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, aforesaid, and their successors, their officers, agents, and servants, in all things as becometh, according to our royal will and pleasure herein declared, and the true intent and meaning of these presents.

And lastly, we do hereby, for us our heirs and successors, grant unto the Master, Assistants, Wardens and Commonalty of blankett weavers, inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, aforesaid and their successors, that these our letters pattents or the inrollment thereof, shall be in and by all things good, firm, valid, sufficient, and effectual in the law, according to the true intent and meaning thereof, and shall be taken, construed, and adjudged, in the most favourable and beneficial sense for the best advantage of the said company and their successors, as well in all our courts of record as elsewhere, and by all and singular the officers and ministers whatsoever of us our heirs and successors, notwithstanding any defect, incertainty, omission or imperfection in these our letters pattents, or any other matter, cause, or thing whatsoever to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

In witness whereof we have caused these our letters to be made pattents.

Witness ourself at Westminster, the three and twentieth day of May, in the tenth year of our reign. By writ of privy seal. CORKS.

8. OATHS SWORN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE COMPANY OF
BLANKET-WEAVERS.

To all Christian people, to whom these presents shall come, the Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty, of blanket weavers inhabiting in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, send greeting in our Lord God Everlasting. Know yee that the said Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty, of their one assent, have ordained, and by these presents doe ordain, and establish that, in all times to come for ever hereafter, the High Steward, the Master, Assistants, Wardens, and Commonalty, and all other officers belonging to the said company, at their respective admittances, shall take the respective oaths hereinafter mentioned.

The oath of the High Steward.

You shall swear that well and truly you shall exercise the office of High Steward of the company of blanket-weavers, inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, to which office you have been elected, according to the best of your knowledge : So God you help, &c.

The oath of a Master.

You shall swear that you shal be true to our sovereigne lady queen Anne : you shal be true and faithfull to the company of blanket-weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, whereof you be chosen Master, keeping, as much as in you is, love and amity amongst them. You shall well and truly exercise the said office according to the best of your skill and understanding, and oversee guide and rule the said company, according as in the charter of incorporation of the said company is declared and specified, sparing no person for love, favour, or reward, neither troubling, grieving or vexing any man for envy, hatred, or malice. All these things and all other concerning your said office, you shall do and perform to the utmost of your power. So God you help, &c.

The oath of an Assistant.

You shall swear that you shal be true to our sovereigne lady queen Anne: You shal be ready to come to the Master of the company of blanket-weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, when he sendeth for you, to treat and commune of such matters and things, as shall at any time concern the good rule and welfare of the said company, and shall give him the best advice you are able, you shall do and perform the office of an assistant of the said company, and all things relating thereunto, to the best of your power and understanding. So God you help &c.

The Warden's oath.

You shal be true to our sovereigne lady queen Anne: you shal be ready and give your attendance as often as the master of the company of blanket-weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof shall send for you for any cause concerning the company, whereof you are chosen Warden, during the time that you shal be Warden of the said company. You shall gather or cause to be gathered the quarterages of every member of your said company, as soon as you conveniently can after that the same shall become due. Also you shall do your diligent endeavour to call in and levy all manner of debts appertaining to your company. You shall gather all fines, rents, entrys of freemen and all other things due to the said company. You shall daily summon and warne all the members of the said company, when you shal be thereunto required by the Master of the said company. You shall truly perform your said office and all things relating thereunto according to your skill and understanding. So help you God, &c.

The oath of a Free-man.

You shall swear that you wil be true and faithfull to our sovereigne lady queen Anne; and that you wil be also true and faithfull to the company of blanket-weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxou, or within twenty miles thereof. You shall keep, as much as in you is, love and amity amongst them, not

stirring or moving any occasion of strife or debate, through which the said company or any person of the same may be hurt. You shall be obedient unto the Master, Assistants, and Wardens of the said company, for the time being, in all matters concerning the good of the said company. And all the lawful rules, orders and ordinances made and to be made and ordained for the well ordering the said company, you shall duly and truly perform and observe. You shall duly and truly pay or cause to be paid the quarterages and other dutys belonging to the said company, and be contributory to all lawful and reasonable charges to which the same company shall be liable as other brethren ought to do to [the utmost of] your power: you shall obey all manner of lawful summons in the Master's name by the Wardens of the company for the time being, and in all things, to the utmost of your power, you shall endeavour the good and welfare of the said company. So God you help &c.

The oath of the clerk.

You shall swear that well and truly you shall execute the office of clerk of the company of blankett-weavers inhabiting in Witney, in the county of Oxon, or within twenty miles thereof, to which office you have been elected, according to the best of your skill and understanding. So God you help &c.

IN WITNESS, whereof, the said Master, Assistants, Wardens and Commonalty have hereto set their common seal this twentieth day of September, in the tenth year of the reign of our sovereign lady Anne, by the grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, queen, defender of the faith &c., Annoque Domini 1711,

IN. WHITE MASTER.

[On the back of the deed is what follows.]

The Ware-house-keeper and Porter's oath.

You shall sweare that you will be true and faithful to our sovereign lord king George the Second; and that you will be true

and faithful to the company of blankett-weavers inhabiting in Witney in the county of Oxford, or within twenty miles thereof; and that you will serve them honestly and truly, without partiality, in the office of warehouse keeper and porter, to which you are now elected, that you or any person by your order shall not buy, sell, or factor any manner of goods belonging to the said company or any member of the same, (other than selling of your stock and buying wearing apparel for yourself and family) that neither you or any other by your order shall recommend the goods of any member or members of the said company in particular, or assist them as a factor in selling and disposing of the same: neither shall you wilfully lett or hinder any person who shall employ you as his or their porter in selling their goods, or discover the purchasers thereof to any other member of the said company: that you will (according to the best of your judgement) charge all persons equally, as near as possible, for carriage and portorage of their goods, and in all things demean and behave yourself, in the said offices, towards all members of the said company by whom you shall be employed without favour or affection, according to the best of your knowledge and ability. So help you God.

Hall-keeper's oath.

I, J. R., do faithfully and solemnly affirm and declare that I will be true and faithful to our sovereign lord king George the Second, and that I will be true and faithful to the company of blankett-weavers inhabiting &c., and that I will serve them honestly and truly, without partiality, in the office of Hall-keeper at Witney aforesaid, or within 20 miles thereof, to which I am now elected, and that I will not heare any person for love, favour, or affection, or return or enter any want of weight or other default of any member or members of this company, whereby to subject any person or persons to the paying of any sum or sums of money through hatred or malice, gain, reward, or hopes thereof; but in all things will demean and behave myself in the said office, as I shall be directed, according to the By-laws, Rules and Ordinances of this company.

The oath of the person employed to rask and dry the goods.

You shall swear that you will be true and faithful to the company of blanket-weavers inhabiting in Witney &c. and that you will serve them honestly and justly, without favour or affection in racking and drying of all such goods as shall be delivered to you from the hall of the said company: and that you will deliver back the same goods to the said hall dried in a workmanlike and decent manner, according to the best of your skill and knowledge. So help you God.

Then follow the signatures of various persons who have taken the foregoing oath, with the dates of their signing. The first name is ALEX. KENT sworn 14th June 1737: the last is CHARLES CAMPION, Feb. 10, 1812.

9. EXTRACTS FROM CLOSE ROLLS, INQUISITIONS POST MORTEM, &c.

Rotulus litterarum clausarum de anno regni regis Johannis septimo, 1206.

MEMB. 26. P. 33 b.

Rex &c. Vicecomiti Oxon. salutem—Scias quod Margareta de Vernon, quæ fuit uxor Johannis Arsic, de 40 marcis et 1 palefrido, unde ipsa finem fecit nobiscum, reddidit nobis palefridum et de prædictis 40 marcis nobis plegium invenit. Et ideo tibi præcipimus quod ei sine dilatione et secundum consuetudinem regni facias ei habere rationabilem dotem suam quæ eam contigit de libero tenemento, quod fuit prædicti Johannis Arsic quondam viri sui in Coges et Fringford. Teste meipso apud Norhamtun, 23 die Maii.

MEMB. 3. P. 65.

Rex custodibus episcopatus Bathoniensis &c. Mittimus vobis 24 palefridos nostros et 12 garciones custodes eorum, et N. servientem nostrum cum 1 equo et 1 garcione, mandantes quatinus necessaria iis inveniatis, et palefridos illos bene custodiri faciatis, quousque pro iis mittamus, de quibus 12 palefridos et 4 garciones ponatis apud Well. qui fuerunt apud Tant.: et 5 palefridos et 2

garciones, qui fuerunt apud Wintoniam, ponatis apud Glastoniam : et 10 palefridos et tres garciones, qui fuerunt apud Witteneyam, ponatis apud Bathoniam, simul cum Nicolao serviente nostro, et 6 palefridos et 2 garciones, qui fuerunt Dunton., ponatis apud Rigesbir. et com. &c. Teste meipso apud Lexinton. 7 die Feb. per Nicolaum de Well.

Rot. Litt. Claus. de anno regni regis Johannis 17o, 1216.

MEMBR. 17. TERRÆ DATÆ. PAG. 235.

Mandatum est vicecomiti Oxoniensi quod faciat habere Regin. de Drumar. mānerium de Wyvelcote cum pertinentiis, quod fuit Adæ de Buteiller, habendum quamdiu domino regi placuerit : et val. 50 libris. Apud Roffam, 10 die Nov.

MEMB. 12. P. 245 b.

TERRÆ. Mandatum est vicecomiti Oxon. quod faciat habere Samsoni de Gaugy terram quæ fuit Roberti Arsic et matris suæ in Sumerton et Coghes. Teste episcopo Berewic., 16 die Januarii.

Rot. Litt. Claus. de anno 18o Johannis, 1217.

MEMB. 6. P. 277 b.

Mandatum est vicecomiti Oxon., quod habere faciat Ricardo de Perco terram quæ fuit Thomæ Huscart in Brithewell et Cogges, quam dominus rex ei concessit, quamdiu domino regi placuerit. Apud Bristoll. 19 die Julii.

Rot. Litt. Claus. de anno 1o Henrici III, 1217.

MEMB. 14. P. 313 b.

Rex vicecomiti Lincoln. Salutem. Præcipimus tibi quod in pace habere facias dilecto et fideli nostro W. comiti de Ferrar. terram suam de Witteneye cum pertinentiis suis in ballia tua, quam ipse comes et antecessores sui tenuerunt. Teste com. apud Faireford * 30 die Junii.

* The mention of Fairford has induced me to retain this document as applicable to Witney. Mr Langford, in his MS. collections, suggests that the precept may have been addressed to the sheriff of Lincoln, because Witney in Oxfordshire was at that time in the diocese of Lincoln. But it is possible that the precept may have reference to the other Witney in Lincolnshire.

Rot. Litt. Claus. de anno 5o Henrici III. 1221.

MEMB. 13. P. 452 b.

COMPUT. *Rex baronibus de Scacchio, Salutem.* Compute di. et fi. u. Falk. de Breaut. 20 libras quas liberavit in garderoba nostra Petro de Orivall. apud Witteneiam die Mercurii proxima ante diem Paschæ, anno regni nostri 5o, ad acquietandum expensas nostras factas ibidem et apud Wodestok. Compute et eidem Falk. 40 solidos, quos liberavit per præceptum nostrum custodibus ingeniorum nostrorum ad ea carianda usque Biham ad castrum illud obsidendum, et 5 solidos et 6 denarios quos posuit in duobus coriis albis emptis apud Norhamton, ad fundas petrariarum et mangonellorum nostrorum faciendas per præceptum nostrum, et 13 solidos et 10 denarios quos posuit in 60 picoisis emptis ibidem et missis usque Biham per præceptum nostrum. T. H. &c. apud Wudestok. 12 die Aprilis, per eundem, anno eodem.

MEMB. 12. P. 454.

COMPUT. *Rex baronibus suis de Scaccario salutem.* Comput. venerabili patri nostro P. Wintoniensi episcopo 50 marcas, quas nobis commodavit, et habere fecit per manum W. de Cantilupo seneschalli nostri ad acquietandas expensas nostras factas in partibus de Witteneia. T. H. &c. apud Windlesor. 15 die Aprilis, anno &c. per eundem.

MEMB. 10. P. 458 b.

D. MAIREMEM. *Rex Thomæ de Langeley salutem.* Præcipimus tibi quod maeremin. quod Robertus Arsic dedit et vendidit Dionysio clerico domini Wintoniensis episcopi ad domos suas de Witteneye emendandas et reædificandas, sine impedimento habere permittas et abducere. T. H. &c. apud Westm., 19 die Maii, per eundem.

CALEND : INQUISITIONUM POST MORTEM SIVE ESCAETARUM.—
IN TURRI.

Ao 51 Hen. III, No 32.—Alexander de la Haye.

1267. Coges—terr' &c. de Dovor' castr'—Oxon.

Ao 16 Edw. I, No 20.—Will'us de Gardinis.

1288. Cogges maner' extent'—Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 50 Edw. II, No 61.—Joh'es de Grey de Rotherfeld,

1311. et Margarita uxor ejus.

Cogges maner' extent'—Oxon.

Ao 20 Edw. III, No 29.—Thomas de Gardinis.

1327. Dovor' castr' 52s. ad Wardam—Kant.

Cogges maner'—Oxon.

Ao 100 Edw. III, No 19.—Elizabetha uxor Philippi Paynel

1335. ut de maner' de Coges—Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 330 Edw. III, No 38.—Joh'es de Grey de
[Rotherfeld.

1358. Chr'.—Coges maner'—Arsik' feod'—Oxon.

SECUNDA PARS esc' de Ao 350 Edw. III, No ii, 42—Joh'es de

1360. Grey de Rotherfeld, pro priore et fratribus sancti
Joh'is Jer'l'm Anglia.—

Coges maner'—Oxon.

Escaet. de Ao 41 Edw. III, No 30.—Joh'es de Grey de

1366. Wyvelcote maner'—Oxon. [Rotherfeld.

Do No ii, 35.—Joh'es de Grey de Rotherfeld.

Feoffavit Will'um de Mershton p'sonam Ecl'ie de
Coges maner'—Oxon. [Somerton et alios.

Escaet' de Ao 470 Edw. III, No ii, 31.—Ric'us fil' Ric'i de

1372. Stanlake. (fatuus.)

Wyteney et Carswell—16 mess. et un' caruc' terr'—Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 51 Edw. III, No 6.—Hugo de Courtenay

1376. Comes Devon'.

Crawley terr' et ten'—Oxon. [Devon?]

[In Harl. MS. 6822 is an account of the attainder of
earl of Devon, in regno H.—, anno—, and the forfeiture of all
his estates, together with a grant of them with the titles to—de
Courtenay his son. Among the estates is Crawley but whether in
Oxon or not, does not appear.

(VOL. iii.)

Escaet' de Ao 2 Ric. II, No 116.—Rob'tus Grey de Rotherfeld

feoffavit William de Aston et alios.

Cogges maner'—Arswyke feod' etc.—Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 11 Ric. II, No 28.—Rob'tus Grey de Rotherfeld
Cogges maner'—Oxon.

Escaet' de 5 Ric. II, No 9.—Cecilia uxor Joh'is de Bohun,
Ch'r. Craule unum messuag' et 100 acr' terr' arabil'—
Bucks (? Oxon.)

[Craule, Bucks, again in name of Willoughby, but it is very likely
to be Crawley juxta Witney.]

Escaet' de Ao 21 Ric. II, No 90.—Joh'es Bridbrok, clericus, pro
priorie et conventu sancte Frideswide, Oxon.

Witteneye 40s. reddit' reman' eidem Joh'i ultra donatio-
nem.—[Oxon.]

Anno 10 Hen. IV, No 19.—Rogerus Giffard Armiger.

Cogges—Cotagium &c. Oxon.

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Escaet' de Anno 2 Hen. V, No 30.—Thomas Lovell, chivalier.

Dokelington Breton maner'

Dokelington advoc' eccl'ie &c.

Ord. duo mes' tria Cotag' et una virg' terr' et dimid'
tent' ut de maner' de Wilcote—Wiltis (? *It should be*
Oxon.)

Escaet' de Ao 9 Hen. V, No 63.—Johannes filius et heres
Johannis Herdewyk.

Unum mess' divers' Cotag' terr' reddit' etc. in villis et
Witteney etc.—Oxon.

Escaet. de Ao 33 Hen. VI, No 28.—Willielmus Lovell miles et
Alicia uxor ejus.

Cogges maner'.

Wevilcote (for Wilcot) Maner' vocat. Bottiler's
Court extent'

Mynster Lovell Maner' ut de ducat. Lancaster'

Duklyngton maner'—etc.—Oxon. &c.

— No. 34,—Margareta quæ fuit uxor Radulphi Crom-
well militis.

Cogges medietas maner'—&c.—Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 38 et 39 Hen. VI, No 58—Joh'es comes Salop.
Wyvelcote maner.

Northlye maner'—&c.—Oxon'

Escaet' de Ao 4 Edw. IV, 27.—Joh'es Lovell Miles.

Wyvelcote maner' vocat' Botellers Court. &c.—Oxon'

— No. 43—Edwardus Hampden de Beckley, in com'
Oxon' attinctus.

Wyttney; messuag' et terr'—Oxon' &c.

Escaet' de Ao 6 Edw. IV, No 20.—Joh'es Lovell nuper uxor
Johannis Lovell, militis. Defuncti.

Duklyngton maner' et advoc' ecclesie

Cockthorp—Do—Do—

Wyvelcote maner' vocat' Butler's court &c. Oxon.

Escaet' de Ao 13 Edw. IV, No. 64.—Alicia Lovell vidua prius
nupt' R. B. Domino de Sudely.

Cogges maner' &c—Oxon. &c.

(APPENDIX)

INQUISITIONES TEMPORE REGIS EDW. III.

Anno 2 Edw. III, No 10.—Thomas de Gardinis

Cogges—Terr' et terr'

Cogges messuag'—Oxon' &c.

(1275.)

Rotuli Hundredorum—Edw. I. (Com. Oxon.)

Extract' inquisitionum factarum per præceptum domini regis
in comitatibus Linc., Oxon., Berk., Buk., Bed., Canteb., Hunte-
don., Devon., Cornub., de juribus et libertatibus domini regis
subtractis et excessis vicecom. Coron. Escaet. et aliorum ballivo-
rum domini regis quorumcumque aliorum balliorum quoquomodo
dominum regem spectantibus, anno regni regis E. fil. regis H.
quarto.

Burgus Oxoniæ pro rege.

Item dicunt quod Ric's de Hospring' aliquando ball's domini

regis apud Wytteney, vacante Episcopatu Wynton., assign. fuit solvere Galfr'o le Sausir de Oxon.' viginti et octo sol. pro uno panno de russeto sumpto ad op. domini regis, et ipse Ric's hactenus nihil inde solvit.

Burg. de Witteneye. De his qui habent libertates per reges Angliæ concessas.

Dicunt quod domin. W. Wynton. episcopus habet libertates concessas Ecclesiæ Wynton. per reges Angliæ quibus utitur secundum tenorem cartæ domini regis, sed nesciunt quis rex illas libertates donavit nec quo warranto.

Hundred. de Wotton.

Inquisitio etc.

Et dicunt quod. et Robertus de Grey et Willelmus del Gardin participes manerii de Cog' tenent illud de domino rege in capite et illud manerii est de baronia de Arsic et faciunt ad castrum de Dovere quinquies per duos annos et qualibus vice per quadraginta dies quatuor milites sumptibus suis propriis.

(1278.)

(Com. Oxon.)

Inquisitiones captæ ex parte domini regis in comitatu Oxon., anno regni regis Edwardi primi septimo, tam de dominicis domini regis et feod. feodalibus eschaetis libertatibus ac rebus cunctis feod. et tenement. domini, regis contingentibus quam aliorum quorumcunque et qui ea tenent in dominico ut in dominico, in villanis ut in villanis, in servis ut in servis, in cotariis ut in cotariis, et postmodum in liberis tenentibus ut in liberis tenentibus, et in boscis et in parcis, in chaciis, et in warennis, in aquis, in ripariis, et omnibus libertatibus et feriis mercatis et aliis tenuris quibuscunque et quocunque modo, et de quibus, sive de mediis sive de aliis, et de quibus feodis et aliis tenuriis scutagium dari consuevit et dari debet, et quantum de feod. honorum quocunque et qui feoda illa tenent qualiter et quomodo et a quo tempore.

Hamletta forinseca pertin. ad manerium de Wyten.

Episcopus Wyncestr. tenet vii caruc. terræ in dominico, ut in dominico, pertin. ad manerium de Wytteneye, et habet liberum parcum, sed nescitur quo waranto : et habet visum franci plegii, de hominibus suis : habet etiam liberum mercatum et feyr. in Wytteneye, et habet liberum piscar. et valet di. marc. et tenet de domino rege in cap. pro parte ejusdem baroniæ, et habet liberam chaciam in bosco quod dicitur Bissopeswode, et tenet per cartas et confirmationes domini regis sed nescitur confirmatione cujus regis.

*Ten. lib.**Hyle (Hayle.)*

Lucia le Wodes tenet in Hayle 1 mesuag.⁷ et 4 virg. terræ de domino episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem 8s et de. sect. in cur. ejusdem de tribus in tres et d. vis. bis in ann. unde.

Joh. Underwode tenet in eadem di. virg. terræ de dca Lucia, et reddit per ann' eid. 12d. et di. lib. cimini un' dca Lucia est media.

Ric. Smalprout tenet in ead. di. virg. terræ de ead. et reddit per ann. dca Lucie 12 et di. lib. cimini.

Ric. Juven. tenet in ead. di. virg. terræ de domino episcopo, et reddit per ann. 12d. et 1 par. chirothecarum eidem.

Idem Ric. tenet in eadem 1 messuag. et 6 acr. terræ de eodem de assart., et reddit dco episcopo 3s.

Ric. Smalprout tenet in eadem 1 messuag. et 9 acr. terræ de eodem et reddit per ann. eid. 4s. 6d.

Joh. Underwode tenet in ead. 1 messuag. et 6 acr. terræ eodem et reddit per ann. eid. 4s.

Will. ad Fontem tenet in ead. 1 mes. cum crofta et 4 acr. terræ de eodem et reddit per ann. eidem 6s.

Joh. Losingrof tenet in ead. 1 mes. et 6 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eidem 4s. 6d.

Rob. fil. Rad. tenet in ead. 1 mes. et 17 acr. terræ, et di. de eodem et reddit per ann. eid. 8s. 9d.

Walt.⁷ Hilde tenet in ead. 1 mes' et 6 acr. terræ de eodem et reddit per ann.' eid. 3s. 2d. qa.

Walt. Fab. tenet in ead. un. mes' et 7 acr. terræ et di' de eodem et reddit per ann.' eid. 4s. 3d.

Ad. ad Fontem tenet in eadem un. mes. et 4 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 2s.

Joh. ad Fontem tenet in ead. un. mes. et 3 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 18d.

Jordanus ad Fontem tenet in ead. un. mes. et 9 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 5s.

Walt. de Hanetwe tenet in ead. un. mes. et 2 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 15d.

Walt. Cryps tenet in ead. un. mes. et un. acr.' terræ de eod. et reddit per ann.' eid. 9d.

Galfr.' Duraunt tenet in ead. un. mes. et 2 acr.' terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 12d.

Ric. Carpentar. tenet in ead. un. mes. et 4 acr. terræ de eod. et reddit per ann.' eid. 2s.

Galfr. de Chardesle tenet in ead. un. mes.' et un. acr.' terræ de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 9d.

Ric. William tenet in ead. un. mes. et 7 acr. terræ 1 ferndell. de eod. et reddit per ann. eid. 3s. 6d.

Rob. Miles tenet in ead. un. mes. et 3 acr.' terræ 1 ferndell. de eodem et reddit per annum eidem 19d. ob.

Thomas Wyne tenet in eadem un. mes. et 3 acr. terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 18d.

Rad. Edun tenet in ead. un. mes' et 10 acr. terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 5s.

Ric. Walt. tenet in eadem un. mes' et 4 acr' terræ de eodem et reddit per annum eidem 2s.

Simon Messor tenet in eadem un. mes' et 8 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 4s.

Ric. de Constouwe tenet in eadem un. mes' et un. acr' terræ et di' de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 9d.

Alicia Mondelgome tenet in eadem un. mes' et un. acr' terræ et di. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 9d.

Will. Edon tenet in eadem un. mes' et 8 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 4s.

Joh. Willy tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 6 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 3s.

Joh. Carpentar. tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 6 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 3s.

Thomas de Deule tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 10 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 5s.

Alanus de Deule tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 3 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 18d.

Rog. Harang tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 5 acr' terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 9d.

Ric. de Pouwell tenet in eadem 1 mes' et 6 acr' terræ de eodem et reddit per annum eidem 3s.

Galfr' Hug' tenet in eadem 3 acras terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 18d.

Servi.

Willelmus Juven. tenet in Hayle 1 mes. et 1 virg. terræ de dicto episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 3s. 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d. q. taxantur.

Idem Willelmus tenet in eadem 5 acras terræ, et di. de forlond de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 9d.

Walter Losingr., Ric. Sprot, Walter Ernald, Will. Snow, Walter Rolves, Ric. filius præpositi Henrici Hardekil, Ric. Ychewol, Joh. Wytherode, Henr. Edon., Simon Huwe, Wil. Coupe, Matilda Fab., Nicol. Juven., Elyas Garford, Will. Garford, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimil. tenem. de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem sicut Will. Juven.

Willelmus Predomuel tenet in eadem 1 mes. et di. virg. terræ de eodem et reddit ger annum eidem pro reditu 12d. ob. pro opere 5s. 5d. q. taxantur.

Julianus Graunt, Ric. Graunt, Gounild, in le Fenne, Joh. di. Charlesle, Will. de Charlesle, Ric. Wyther, Ric. de Pouwell, Will. Wyking, Cecilia Rotur, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimil. tenem. de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem sicut Will. Prodomme.

Walter Rolves tenet in eadem 4 acras terræ de assart' de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s.

Will. Wyking tenet in eadem 4 acr' terræ et di. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 3d.

COTAR.'

Walterus Ernald tenet in Hayle 1 cotag' et 3 acras terræ episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 12d. pro opere 19d. ob.

Robertus Smalprout, Willelmus Knit, Willelmus Juven., Ricardus de Pouwele, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimile tenementum de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem excepto quod Robertus Smalprout tenet in eadem 1 cotag. et 3 acras terræ plus et 1 fernd. et reddit pro reditu 2s. 7d. ob. pro opere 8d.

Charswell.

Hugo de Scotporn tenet in Charswell 1 messuag. et 6 virgas terræ cum 2 croftis de domino episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem 19s. 1d. et de. sect. de tribus sept. in tres sept. ; unde

Persona de Wytteneia tenet in eadem 1 virgam terræ de dicto Hugone, et reddit eidem per annum 4s. 6d.

Henricus de Charswell tenet in eadem 1 mes. et 3 virgas terræ de abbate de Eygn. [*Ensham*], et reddit eidem per annum 6s. 8d. et debet scutagium et vis. bis in curia de Wyten.

Joh. Galard tenet in eadem 1 mes. et 2 virgas terræ de eodem et reddit per annum dicto abbati 13s. 4d., et debet scutagium et vis. bis in curia de Wytteneia.

Simon Perdel [*Therdaie*] tenet in eadem 1 mes. et 1 virgam terræ de dicto abbate, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 2d. ob. unde.

Hugo de Scotporn tenet in eadem 5 acras terræ de prædicto, et reddit dicto Simoni per annum 9d.

Craule.

Dominus Alanus de Craule tenent in Craule in dominico ut in dominico 1 caruc. terræ de episcopo Wyntoniensi, et reddit per annum 17s. 5d., et debet custodire boscum episcopi, et debet sectam in curia ejusdem de tribus in tres.

Rad. de Mouner tenet in eadem 1 messuagium et di. virg. terræ

cum 1 molend. et 16 acr. terræ de assart. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 49s. 8d. pro opere 2s. 3d. ob. et debet sectam de tribus in tres.

Marg. de Craule tenet in eadem 1 messuag. et 6 acras terræ de eodem et reddit per annum eidem 3s. 1d.

Hugo Wolshulle tenet in eadem 1 messuag. et 11 acras terræ et di. de eodem, et reddit per annum dicto episcopo 6s. 8d. et debet vis. bis in anno.

Servi.

Rog. ap Hache tenet in Craule 1 messuag. et 1 virg. terræ cum 10 acris terræ de forlond. de dicto episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem 8s. 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Walter. Wyth tenet in eadem 1 messuag. et 1 virgam terræ et 11 acras terræ de Assart. de eodem, et reddit eidem pro reditu. 9s. 3d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Hugo Hardekil tenet in eadem 1 messuagium et 1 virgam terræ et 4 acras terræ de forlond de eodem, et reddit eidem pro reditu 5s. 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Rad. Gilb. tenet in eadem 1 messuagium et 1 virgam terræ et 4 acras terræ de fordland de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 5s 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Henricus Est tenet in eadem 1 messuagium et 1 virgam terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 3s. 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Thomas Dod tenet in eadem 1 mes. et 1 virgam terræ de eodem et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 3s. 9d. pro opere 10s 10d.

Robertus Jacob tenet in eadem di. virgam terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 22d. ob. pro opere 5s. 5d.

Matilda Baly, Ricardus Rotor, Ricardus Olive, Willelmus Alisandr, Alexander Giu, Emma Woweres, Johanna relicta Walteri, Willelmus Hardekil, Johannes Dolfen, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimile tenementum de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem sicut Robertus Jacob.

Johannes Dolfen tenet in eadem 1 mes. et di. virg. terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 7d. ob. pro opere 6s. 2d.

Henricus Aylward tenet in eadem 1 mes. et di. virg. terræ et 1 cotlond, et 7 acras terræ de assart. de eodem, et reddit eidem pro reditu 9s. 1d. ob. pro opere 6s. 2d.

Cotar.

Ricardus Doleman tenet in Craule 1 cotlond de dicto episcopo, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 2s. pro opere 3s. 3d.

Alicia relicta Page tenet in eadem 1 cotag. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 12d. pro opere 19d. ob.

Joh. Hode tenet in eadem 1 cotag. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 12d. pro reditu pro opere 19d. ob.

Crudebrug.

Lib. Ten.

Joh. de Wodestok tenet in Crudebruge 1 mes. et 4 virg. terræ de dicto episcopo, et reddit per annum episcopo 8s. et debet sectam in curia ejusdem de tribus in tres et vis. bis per annum.

Idem Johannes tenet in eadem 1 acram de Assart. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 6d.

Nicolaus Frankelayn tenet in eadem 1 virg. terræ et di. de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 8s. 3d. pro opere 22d.

Will. Bassett tenet in eadem 1 mes. et di. virg. terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 2s. 9d.

Rad. Honicroft tenet in eadem 1 mes. et 2 acras terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum eidem 12d. Et debent sectam in curia Wyten.

Servi.

Rog. ad Fontem tenet in Crudebrug. 1 mes. et 1 virg. terræ de dicto episcopo et reddit per annum eidem pro reditu 3s. 9d. pro opere 10s. 10d.

Alicia ad Fontem, Thomas ap Hache, Ricardus Neweman, Robertus de Cherdesle, Rogerus de Burton, Ricardus Moul, Henricus ap Hethe [*Hache?*], Thomas Noreys, Radulfus Moul, Ricardus Kene, Henricus Ungard, Thomas Graunt, Henricus Broket, Ricardus in Luto Daniel., Hugo Noreys, Hugo Alb., Johannes Milesent, Willclmus Graunt, Rogerus ap Hache, Marg.

Milicent, Rad. Seman, Will. de Fernhull, Rog. Kene, Walterus Kene, Ric. Aylward, Galf. Dod, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimile tenementum de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem, sicut Rogerus ad Fontem.

Hugo Alb. tenet in eadem 1 mes. et di. virg. terræ de eodem, et reddit per annum pro reditu 22d. ob. pro opere 5s. 5d.

Johannes Bele, Rad. Niger, Ric. Swely, quilibet præscriptorum tenet in eadem consimile tenementum de eodem pro consimili servitio faciendo eidem sicut Hugo Alb.

NIWENTON.

Tenura de Niwenton Joel fundat. super feod. Arsyk., sr feod. Comit. Insulæ, sr feod. domini regis, sr feod. de Karsnet., et sr feod. de Clere.

Feod. Arsyk.

Robertus de Cuuaford tenet in eadem villa unum mansum et 5 virgatas terræ et unum molendinum aquaticum cum pertinentiis in dominico de feod. de Arsik, pro d. feod. milit. per dominum Robertum de Grey, medium inter ipsum et dominum regem, et reddit semper 24 Septs et cariat. ad castrum Dover, propriis sumptibus, decem sol. ad ward. et fac. duos advent. ad mag. comit. Oxon. per annum et sect. ad hundr. de Wotton. de tribus septimanis in tres sept., et habet liberum taur. suum p. tot. vill. in omnibus feod. et locis.

Idemque Robertus habet in eadem 7 villanos tenentes 7 virg. terræ cum messuag. et pertinentiis, qui omnes reddunt pariter per annum 6d. pro havedselv certo hundr. de Wotton, et dominus ten. bis sect. ad idem hundred. per annum scilicet per duos t'nos vic. Oxon.

Et dominus Robertus habet de dictis villanis servitia subscripta : &c.

Vill. de Coges.

Isabella de Gray tenet in dote vill. de Coges de Roberto filio suo de Gray 2 caruc. terræ in dominico cum pratis et pascuis djacentibus. Et dominus Robertus de Gray tenet in capite de

domino rege per baroniam, et est de baron. de Harsik, et dat scutagium, et facit custodiam ad castrum de Dovere, videlicet per annum 20s.

Et eadem Isabella tenet ibidem quandam dimidiam liberam piscariam in ripa de Wenaricke quæ continet in longitudine de curia de Coges usque ad molendinum aureat., et tenet quoddam boscum infra metas forestæ de Wychewode, set extra regardam per cartam domini regis, et habet liberam curiam suam et visum franci plegii, et non debet sectam ad comit. nec ad hundredum, per cartam domini regis.

Vilenag.

Ricardus Jurduis tenet in vilenagio unam virgatam terræ de eadem, et operabitur et taylabitur ad voluntatem dominæ, vel si domina voluerit, potest ista opera relaxare et accipere 5s. de reditu.

Vilenag.

Johannes Beccarius tenet dimidiam virgat. terræ de eadem, et operabitur ad voluntatem dominæ, vel, si domina voluerit, potest opera relaxare et accipere 2s. 6d. annuatim.

Galfridus le Roke tenet dimidium virgat. terræ eodem modo.

Johannes Juven. tenet dimidiam virgat. terræ eodem modo.

Alicia Roward tenet dimidiam virg. terræ eodem modo.

Ricardus le Norreys tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ eodem modo.

Robertus Alriche tenet dimidiam virgat. terræ eodem modo.

Galfridus Grobias tenet dimidiam virgat. terræ eodem modo.

Robertus Grobias tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ eodem modo.

Johannes Simund tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ eodem modo.

Willelmus Prat tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ eodem modo.

Cotag.

Willelmus Poreward, Radulphus Veres, Willelmus Simund, Walterus Horn, Petrus Cissor, omnes isti tenent unam virgatam terræ in cotag. per supradictum servitium, et debent tall. ad voluntatem dominæ.

Lib'e tent.'

Thomas filius Thomæ de le Bechey tenet 1 virgat. terræ

de eadem, et reddit per annum 5s., et fac. sect. cur. de 3 sept. in 3 sept.

Alexander de Molendina aurea, et Willelmus de Molendina aurea, tenent quartam partem unius virgatæ, et unam molendinam aquaticam de eadem Isabella, et reddit per annum 30s. et fac. sectam cur.

Johannes de la Wik. et Ric. filius Willelmi tenent 1 virgat. terræ de eadem : reddunt per annum 10s. 6d.

Radulphus de Wik. tenet 2 partes unius virgatæ terræ de eadem : reddit per annum 10s.

Walterus Brun et Henricus de la Preye tenent 1 virgatam terræ de eadem : reddunt per annum 10s. et fac. sect. cur.

Willelmus le Longe tenet 1 acram terræ de eadem Isabella : reddit per annum eidem 12d.

Johannes de Aula tenet 1 acram terræ, eodem modo.

Johannes Prat tenet 1 acram terræ eodem modo.

Thomas le Nappe tenet 1 acram terræ eodem modo.

Walterus Molendinarius tenet 1 acram terræ eodem modo.

Gervaseus le Franceys tenet 1 acram terræ eodem modo.

Radulphus le Saltere tenet un. acram terræ eodem modo.

Et de aliis articulis, de quibus onerati sunt, nihil sciunt, ut dicunt per sacramentum.

WYVELECOT. Hamelet. est pertinens villæ de Cogges. Wivelecote est hamelettum spectans villat' de Cogges, et manerium dominæ Isabellæ de Grey.

Robertus le Botiller filius et hæres Thomæ le Botiller tenet un. acram terræ et prati in dominico, et dictus Robertus filius Thomæ tenet dictam terram in capite de domina Isabella de Grey, q' istum tenementum eidem dominæ nomine dotis assignatur : reddit per annum 2s. eidem, et facit sectam cur. de Cogges a 3 septimanis in 3 septimanas : et Robertus de Grey defendit istam terram cum terra sua de Cogges.

Bondag.

Johannes Murdak, Henricus Bone, Henricus le Geke, Willelmus filius Fabri, omnes isti prædicti per se tenent dimid. virgatam

terræ in bondag., unde 2 homines tenent unam virgatam terræ: reddunt per annum 2s. pro omni servitio.

Lib'e tenens.

Hugo Clericus tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ, reddit per annum 4s.

Thomas de Gardinis, filius et hæres domini Willelmi de Gardinis, tenet in Coges dimidiam carucatam terræ in dominico et in capite de domino rege.

Et sciendum quod ballivi domini regis tenent visum franci plegii semel per annum in villa de Coges, et sunt dicta tenementa de baron. de Arsik. et tenentur de ward. de Dovere et facit prædict. terr. quæ sunt de baronia de Arsik. wardum quantum pertinet ad quartam partem feodi, et medietatem quartæ partis unius feodi.

Bondag.

Ric. filius Willelmi et Ric. Mote tenent 1 virgatam terræ in bondag. de prædicto Thoma ad voluntatem domini, et debent operari diversis quib. septimanis a festo sancti Johannis Baptistæ usque ad festum Sancti Michaelis proxime sequens, et per 5 dies in sept. præter diem Sabbati, vel dominus potest dicta opera relaxare et accipere 3s. 9d. pro suis operibus, et ad festum sancti Michaelis usque ad festum santi Johannis Baptistæ: reddit 3s. 9d. pro suis operibus, si dominus voluerit.

Lib'e Ten't.

Ric. Horn et Margeria filius Radulphi de Cog. tenet 1 virgatam terræ de eodem Thoma: reddunt per annum eidem 7s. et facit sectam cur.

Willelmus Reynald' tenet 2 partes unius virgatæ terræ de eodem: reddit eidem annuatim 5s.

Johannes de la Wike tenet dimidiam virgatam terræ de eodem: reddit eidem annuatim 3s.

Cecilia de Bleclaye tenet tertiam partem unius virgatæ terræ de eodem: reddit annuatim eidem 5s.

Ric. filius Willelmi tenet 4 acras terræ de eodem: reddit eidem annuatim 2s.

Ricardus Wote tenet 4 acras terræ de eodem : reddit annuatim eidem 2s.

. . . aq. quæ est in ripa Wenrisse a fonte de Wolmaresham' usque ad villam de Minister' &c.

(1291.)

TAXATIO ECCLESIASTICA P. NICOLAI.

Lincoln' Diocesis.

Rotulus taxationis ecclesiarum, pensionum, et portionum personarum ecclesiasticarum in archidiaconatibus Oxon., Bukingham, Bedefordiæ, Huntingdon., et Northampton., præter decanatum Rotelandiæ, per Radulfum et Ricardum de Morton et Gilling ecclesiarum rectores, factæ anno Domini MCC nonagesimo primo sub reverendis patribus dominis J. Dei gratia Winton. et O. Lincoln. episcopis taxatoribus a domino Nicolao papa quarto deputatis una cum incremento pro retaxatione a supradictis patribus in quibusdam ecclesiis superaddito.

Archidiaconatus Oxon.

DECANATUS DE WODESTOK.

Prioratus de Coges. Ecclesia de Coges. . 8 0 0.

DECANATUS DE BURNCESTRE.

Ecclesia de Feryngford' deduct' pens' 6 0 0.

Pens' Prioris de Coges in eadem 1 6 8.

DECANATUS DE WYTTENEYE.

Ecclesia de Wytteneye 40 0 0.

Vicar. ejusdem . . 4 6 8.

Sm. 409 12 0

BENEFICIA ECCLESIASTICA AD X MARC. ET INFRA TAXATA, QUORUM POSSESSORES ALIUNDE NON SUNT BENEFICIATI.

ARCHID. OXON. WYTTENEYE.

Vicar. de Wytteneye 4 6 8.

Rotulus taxationis bonorum temporalium, redituum, et proven-
tuum religiosarum personarum archidiaconatuum Oxon., Bukying-
ham, Bedeford., Huntynghdon., et Northampton., præter decanatum

Roteland., factæ per Magistrum Johannem de Walecot et William de Steynton, anno Domini 1291, sub reverendis patribus dominis O. Dei gratia Lincoln. et J. Wynton. episcopis taxatoribus principalibus a domino Nicolao papa Quarto deputatis.

ARCHID. OXON.

DECANATUS DADYNGTON.

Prior de Coges habet in ibidem [i. e. *Parva Tywe*] in terris, re-
dit., pratis et pasturis 4 13 10.

Decanatus de Wytteneye.

Prior de Coges habet ibidem [i. e. *in Somertone*] in re-
dit.

0 2 0.

Prior de Coges habet in Feryngford in terris et mol. 2 1 0.

(1293.)

DIOC. WYNTON.

[*e MS. Cottoniano, fol. 456.*]

Taxatio per Wellen. et Midd. archid. auct. ap. de redditibus proventibus obventibus ecclesiasticis ad dominum Johannem Dei gratia Wynton. episcopum spectantibus, facta Anno Gratiae MoCCmo nonagesimo tertio.

WYNTON. TEMP.

Wytteneye cum hamlettis de Crodebreggs Cranwell. et Hayle de terris, re-
dit., et aliis proventibus 116 10 5.

Harl. MS. 2044 fol. 121. XIV K. John.

Sciatis quod ego Robertus Arsic statui terram in Coges de meo dominico, scilicet a terra episcopi Wintoniensis usque ad Claicrofte, monachis de Coges, ex utraque parte regalis mei : scilicet Walt. de la Wike duas acras super croftam dne propinquas terræ episcopi Winton., pro 7 solidis sterl., quas mihi dedit in Gersuma, reddendo inde mihi et hæredibus meis honorifice duos solidos pt. Hujus donationis testes sunt dominus Thomas de Wilebi, et dominus Will. Trussebut. et Walter. p. de Lega, et Will. Lambert, et Rob. filius ejus, Nigell. de Ruileia et mult. al. Hanc constitutionem et donationem ego Robertus Arsic statui et

concessi in curia mea apud Coges coram militibus et aliis liberis hominibus 13o anno post coronationem Johannis regis Anglie.

Calendar of Writs and Returns for members of Parliament.

Wytteneye, Burgus.

(vol. I.)

No 1. 1304. Teste 12 Nov. Ao 32 Edw. I. at Burstwick—Return 16 Feb. 1305 at Westminster on Tuesday in 15 days of the Purification. (Prorogued by next writ.) Original writ extant. No writ de expensis for this borough enrolled.

No. 2. 1305. Teste 22 Jan. Ao 33 Edw. I, at Spalding—Return 28 Feb. at Westminster (by prorogation) Sund. next after the feast of St Mathias apost. Orig. writ extant. No writ de Expensis enrolled. Persons returned,—Johannes de Haston, Walterus Raulyn. (See p. 149—No 33 of *Calend.*)

No 3. 1306. Teste 5 Apr. Ao 34 Edw. I, at Winchester—Return 30 May at Westminster on the morrow of the H. Trinity. Orig. writ extant. Person returned—Walterus Raulyn (p. 173 no. 37.)

Wynteneye, Wytteneye, Burgus et villa. (vol. II.)

No. 4. 1307. Teste 26 Aug. Ao 1 Edw. II, at Comnoch. Ret. 13 Oct. at Northampton in 15 days of St Michael. Orig. writ extant. No return made for this Borough. (p. 10. no 25.)

No. 5. 1309. Teste 4 Mar. Ao 2 Edw. II at Westminster,—Return 27 Apr. at Westminster in one month of Easter. Orig. writ extant. No return made. (p. 32 no. 32.)

No. 6. 1311. Teste 16 June, Ao 4 Edw. II, at Berwick on Tweed—Return 8 Aug. at London, on Sund. next before the feast of St Lawrence. Prorogued &c. Orig. Writ extant. "For causing two Burgesses to come for the Borough of Witney and for the 'Communitas' thereof. The writ was returned to the Bailiff of the liberty of Dominus Adomarus de Valencia of his hundred of Bampton, in which the borough is situated, and the said Bailiff who has the return of all writs and the execution thereof did not give any answer to the sheriff." (p. 51. no 17.)

No. 7. 1311. Teste 11 Oct. Ao 5 Edw. II, at London—Return 12 Nov. at Westminster on morrow of St Martin &c. Orig.

writ extant. "For causing two Burgesses to come from the Borough of Witney which is in the Hundred of Bampton in the liberty of Dominus Adomarus de Valencia. The writ was returned to the bailiff of the liberty who has the return of all writs &c. and who did not give any answer to the Sheriff. (*p. 63. no. 55.*)

No. 8. 1313. Teste 8 Jan. Ao 6 Edw. II, at Windsor—Return 18 Mar. at Westminster on the 3d Sund. in Lent. Orig. writ extant. No return made. (*p. 87. no. 42.*)

No. 9. 1313. Teste 26 Jul. Ao 7 Edw. II, at Westminster—Return 23 Sept. at Westminster, on Sund. next after the feast of St Matthew apost. Orig. Writ. extant. No return made for this Borough (*p. 110. no 47.*)

No. 10. 1314. Teste 29 July Ao 8 Edw. II, at York—Return 9 Sept. at York on Mond. the morrow of the nativity of the Virgin. Orig. writ extant. Persons returned Walterus de Foresta, Henricus le Plomer. (*P. 131, No 17.*)

No. 11. 1314. Teste 24 Oct Ao 8 Edw. II, at Spalding—Ret. 20 Jan. 1315 et Westminster in 8 days of St Hilary. Orig. writ extant. Persons returned Johannes de Staulake, Johannes Savage (*p. 147, No 68.*)

Witney is not noticed in any of the Subsequent Returns for this Reign.

Calend. of Writs and Returns &c. (vol. II, Pars 3, p. 351).

(Ex Bib. Harl. 2195—6281. fol. 67.)

Com. Oxon. In isto rotulo continentur omnia Hundred. Com. pert. et quorum sunt, et quot Burgi et villæ sunt in quolibet Hundredorum illorum, et qui sunt domini eorundem.

Hundred. de Bampton et Comitibus Pembroke et sunt in eodem Hundredo : —

Villa de Wytney cum Crotebruge, Craule, Haylle, Carsewell, et Denlegbe.—Dominus episcopus Wintoniensis.

Hundred. de Wootton. et domini Regis.

Villa de Coges cum Wyvelcote.—Domini Joh'es de Grey,

Thomas de Gardino, Robertus le Botiller.

(Testa de Nevill.,—Taken tem. Hen. III, and Edw. I.—compiled in I Edw. III.)

Hundr' de Wotton. Coges est caput de baronia Arsik. Arch. Ebo. et Thom. de Lahay tenent totam villam: non potest inquiri utrum pro aliquo feodo necne.

HUNDREDUM DE BAMPTON. Wyteney et Crudebrege sunt in manu domini Regis et spectant ad baroniam episcopi Wyntoniensis.

Episcopus Winton. tenet Witteneye et Edburb'i: sed nescimus per quod servitium.

(INQUISITIONES NONARUM, * COM. OXON.)—(14th Edw. III.)

Decanat' de Wodestok. Cogges. Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus suis portionibus taxatur ad 8 li. cujus non. prædict. assed. ad 8 li. et non plus, per inquis. jurat. prædict., nec sunt ibidem catallar., ut dicunt, vel mercat. &c.

Decanatus de Witteneye. Witteneye. Ecclesia parochialis ejusdem cum omnibus suis portionibus taxatur ad 40 li. cujus non prædict. assed. ad 26 li. 13s. 4d. ut patet per inquis. indent. cap. per factum Roberti de Cogg., Ricardi de Stanlake, Johannis Lacy, Johannis ate More, Johannis Huston, Walteri de Dyere, Rogeri de Carswell, Thomæ Loneye, Rob. le Boor, Willelmi le Rok, Walteri le Prentys et Ricardi Hod, qui dicunt quod nonæ dictæ paroch. non plus valent quam præscribitur q. gleb. fen. cum dec. val. 20 marc. nec sunt ibidem catallar. &c.

Rotulorum originalium in curia Scaccarii abbreviatio.

Est. from Ct Chancery, of all grants of Crown &c. from Ao 2o Hen. III.)

* The NONÆ tax consisted of the 9th and the 15th of the estimated property of the realm.

It was to be paid within 2 years from the date of its enactment: 14th of K. Edw. III.

In the rural parishes the 9th lamb, the 9th fleece, the 9th sheaf, and the produce to be sold. First it was to have realized more than the tenths of Pope Nicholas's taxations; then it was offered at an equal sum; lastly it was sold at its actual value, more or less.

In cities and boroughs the "very ninth of all goods and chattels" was taken.

This was "in aid of the good keeping of the realm" etc. and was not to be an example for time to come. Travelling Merchants and others, not included in the lands or the towns, but living by their gains, were taxed "at their value at the 15th." W.L.

In orig.' de Anno r. r. Edwardi Tertii post conquestum.

Extract' Claus.

Oxon. Ric'us de Stanlake de Whitteneye et Joh'es de Croxfor junior finem fecerant per 10 li. pro lic' assignandi laicum feod. in Whitteneye, Sandford, Yistale, Lutelmores et Cowele, ad manum mortuam.

Ro. 44.

In orig' de anno r. r. Edwardi Tertii Angl. et Franc. videlicet Angl. vicesimo sc'do et Franc' nono.

Grossi Fines.

Oxon. Will's ep'us Winton. finem fecit cum R. per unam marcam pro lic. dandi quædam ten. cum pertin' in Whiteneye et alibi ac passagium (pasnagium?) ult. aquam de Saundford juxta Oxon. ad manum mortuam habend.

Ro. 46.

In orig' de Anno r. r. Edwardi Tertii post Conquest' 12.

Grossi Fines.

Joh'es de Grey de Retherfeld finem fecit per 40s. pro lic. habend. quod ipse de quibusdam terris et ten. cum pertin. in Feryngford in Com. Oxon q. &c. feoffare possit Joh'em Gifford de Twyford habend. &c. in escambium pro quibusdam aliis terris et ten. cum pertin' in Cogges q. &c.—

Ro. 79.

In orig' de anno r. r. Edwardi Tertii 42.

Grossi Fines.

Joh'es de Grey de Rotherfeld dat quadraginta libras pro lic' feoffandi Will'm de Mershton personam ecclesiæ de Somerton et quosdam alios de maneriis de Retherfeld, Cogges et Somerton et de quibusdam aliis maneriis q. &c. habend. sub certa forma.

Ro. 83.

Calendar. Rot. Chartarum et Inquisitionum ad quod damnum.

(From 1 K. John 1199 to end K. Edw. IV, 1483.)

Chartæ.

Ao 15 Hen. III. pars unica.

Mem. 1. Ep'us Wynton'—Wytteneye maner' feria,—Oxon.'

Ao 26 Hen. 3. pars unica.

No. 7. Archiep'us Ebor. Coges juxta Witteneia tota terr. Oxon.

Archiep'us Ebor. Coges libertates. Oxon.

Ao 29 Hen. III. pars unica.

No. 3. Walter de Gray. Coges &c.—Oxon.

Ao 4 Edw. III. pars unica.

No. 44. Joh'es Gray de Rotherfeld. Coges &c. libera waren.
Oxon.

No. 94. Joh'es de Greye. Coges maner. libera waren'—Oxon. &c.

Inquis. ad quod damnum.

Ao 100 Edw. II.

No. 100. Tho. de Gardinis. Cogges maner.' &c.—Oxon.'

Ao 18 Edw. II.

No. 175. Tho. de Gardinis—Cogges maner. &c.—Oxon.

(Witney in page 389 ut indic. non inven.)

Ao. 1 Hen. IV.

No. 37. Ric'us Stanlake pater Rog'i Stanlake jam superstit.

Fuit seisisus in dominico suo ut de feodo, de uno messuagio et
duabus virgatis terræ in Carswell et de aliis terris cum pertin.
in Witteney in com. Oxon. &c.—Oxon' et Berks'.

Calend. Rot. patentium, in Turri Londinensi.

Patent' de Anno 180 R. Edw. I.

Mem. 16. Pro episcopo Winton. de chacea sua de Witney in
com. Oxon.'

Secunda patent' de Ao 50 R. Edw. III.

Mem. 3. Pro Cantar. de Whitney (*Oxon. vel Heref.?*)

Prima pars, patent' de Ao 90 R. Rich. II.

Mem. 15. Rex confirmavit Roberto Gray de Rutherford in
feodo. viz. quod ipse et homines sui de Rutherford et de Cogges
sint quieti de shiris hundredis etc. in qua de 24 et 26 chart
Hen. III.

VALOR ECCLESIASTICUS HEN. VIII.

Wytney decanatus—Oxon. Lincoln. dioc.

Valores omnium rectoriarum, vicariarum, et aliarum possess-
ionum tam spiritualium quam temporalium infra Decanatus præ-
dict. in omnibus et omnimodis decimis tam majoribus quam min-

oribus, terr. gleb. et al. possession. et proven. earundem, una cum oblationibus et cæteris proficuis eisdem spectan.

Ecclesia de Wytney in Dioc' prædict.

Edwardus Steward legum doctor rector ibidem et rectoria sua valet per annum, in omnibus decimis, oblationibus, et aliis proficuis et emolumentis, ut supra communibus annis ex recognitione dieti rectoris modo incumbentis ibidem £52 6s. 8d. Sm. £52 6s. 8d. Inde.

In resolut' an'tis episcopo Wynton. de annua pensione per annum in perpetuum £4. 6s. 8d.

Item in procurat. arch'no episcopi per annum 10s. 8d. Sm. Alloc. £4 17s. 4d. et reman. clare £47 9s. 4d. Decima pars £4 14s. 11d.

Wytney Vicaria Ecclesiæ ib'm.

Elic. Wareh'm, legum bacalar. vicarius dictæ eccl'ie et vicaria sua valet per annum communibus annis ex ejus recognitione £10. 2s. Sm. £10 2s. Inde.

In resolut' p. sinodal. ep'o Lincoln in perpetuum 2s. Et arch. suo an. et in perpetuum p. procurat. 12d.

Item ep'o Winton. de quodam quiet. red. exeunt. de manso vicar. et terris eidem pertin. an. et in perpetuum 2s. 8d. Sm. 9s. 8d. et reman. clare £9 12s 4d. Decima pars 19s 3d.

Capella B'tæ Mariæ virg'is infra eccl'iam parochialem de Wytney p'dict.

Will's Dalton capellanus ibidem et capella sua valet ibidem in omnibus terris et tenem. ac aliis possessionibus eidem pertin. per annum ex ejus recognitione £4 6s 8d. Sm. £4 6s. 8d. Inde.

In redit. quiet. an'ti' solut' ep'o Winton. exeunt' de terr. capellæ prædictæ pertin. per annum et in perpetuum 33s. 3d. Sm. 33s. 3d. Et reman. clare 52s. 5d. Decima pars 5s. 3d.

WODESTOK DECANATUS.

Wyvelcote—Dominus Joh'es Leversage rector ibidem. Et rectoria sua valet per annum in omnibus 53s. 4d. Sm. 53s 4d. Decima pars 5s. 4d.

BRUERN MONAST. IN COM. OXON.

Wytney. Dec. de Wytney. Thomas Smyth tenen. ibidem r. per annum 6s. Sm. patet 6s.

Collegium de Merton, in dioc. Linc' et jurisdict. Cant.

Wytney in comit. Oxon. dioc. Lyncolln. Rectoria ibidem solvit pro situ collegii Corporis Christi in Oxon. £4 6s. 8d. Sm. patet.

Witney-Decanat. de Wyttney.—Parvum tenementum ibidem dimittitur per indent' pro reditu annuali 6s.

In the calendar to pleadings in the court of duchy of Lancaster, (vol. iii, No. 32, 41 Eliz.) Case of Attorney general on behalf of the Queen v. Francis Derby, Subject—The extent on defendant's copyhold land called GIGLEY in the tithing of Haylye, and manor and parish of Wytney, com. Oxon.

In Harl. MS. 604.

Valor Capell. &c. com. Oxon.

Capella beatæ Mariæ virginis infra ecclesiam parochialem Wyttney valet per annum 52s. 5d.

From DOOMSDAY BOOK.

OXFORDSHIRE (*Dimid. Hund. Bensinton*)

III. TERRA EPISCOPI WINTONIENSIS.

Episcopus Wintoniensis tenet Witenie. Stigand archiepiscopus tenuit. Ibi sunt 30 hidæ. Terra est 24 carrarum. Nunc in dominio 5 carræ et 9 servi et 36 villani cum 11 bordariis. Habent 20 carras. Ibi 2 molini de 32 solidis et 6 denariis, et 100 acræ prati; silva 3 leu. longa et 2 leu. lata: cum onerat. val. 50 solidis. Tempore regis Edwardi valebat 22 libris: modo 25 libris.

(*Levecanole Hund.*) TERRA EPISCOPI BAIOCENSIS.

Wadard tenet Coges. Ibi sunt 5 hidæ. Terra 8 carrarum. Nunc in dominio sunt 2 carræ et 5 servi. De molino 10 sol. De feno 10 sol. p"tn. 11 q"rent' lg. et 2 q"rum lat. Pastura 3 q"rent' lg. et una q"rum lat. silva 18. q"rum lg. et 6 q"rum lat. Valuit et val. 10 lib.

(*Peritune Hund.*) TERRA ROBERTI DE OILGE.

Rogerius tenet de Roberto Dochelintone. Ibi sunt 4 hidæ. Terra 4 carrarum. Nunc in dominio 3 carræ et 6 servi, et 6 villani cum 9 bord. Habent 2 carras. Ibi molin. 12 sol. et 30 acræ prati. Pastura una q"rum lg. et 2 q"rum lat. Val. 4 lib. modo 6 lib.

Hæ infra scriptæ, terræ sunt de feudo Willelmi comitis.

Robertus tenet 7 hidas in Dochelintone. Terra 6 carrarum. In dominio sunt 2 carræ et 3 servi et 7 villani cum 2 bord. Habent 5 carras. Ibi 30 acræ prati. Pastura 1 q"rum lg. et una

lat. Silva 3. q''rum lg. et 2 q''rum lat. Valuit 6 lib. modo 7 libras.

LIBER NIGER SCACCARIJ. *Oxfordshire.*

Carta Manasseri Arsic de feodis suis. Hic sunt milites Manasser Arsic. Gilbertus de Nevill ten. feod. 4 militum a tempore Regis H. et hoc tenet Rogerus Arsic a fratre suo Manassero Arsic. Yon de Grenelbi tenet (tenuit) feodum un. militis a tempore Regis H. et hoc habet Rogerus Arsic. Givido de Ver tenet quartam partem militis ab ipso Rogero, et pater suus tenuit a tempore Regis Henrici. Odo de Ceriton nepos Archiepiscopi tenuit a tempore regis H. feodum un. militis, et Willelmus filius suus hoc ipsum tenet. Sibilla de Ros tenuit a tempore Regis H. Aluredus de Bekeivell tenuit feod. 2 militum a tempore Regis H. et Robertus filius ejus tenet alterum, et unum invadiavit domino suo Roberto Arsic. Et illud Manasser Arsic dedit Willelmo de Dudevill pro servitio un. militis. Galfridus de Eston (Aston) tenuit in tempore regis H. feodum un. militis, et illud vendidit Reignerio, filio Bering. Et Reginerus tenuit illud de Manasser Arsic pro servitio un. militis. Dittonam et Kersinton (Denton et Garsington) tenuit Triham Picot in tempore Regis H. pro servitio duorum militum, sed illam pro nequitia et judicio Curiae Robertus Arsic amisit. Osbertus de Cladio Cestria tenet de illo feodum un. militis, et Chersinton (Cassington) c. feod. un. militis, quod injuste difforciat. Manasser Arsic. Willelmus de Clifton tenuit feodum militis a tempore Regis H. et heredes ejus tenent. Odo de Berton. tenuit in tempore Regis H. feodum un. militis, et Humfredus filius ejus tenet. Robertus fil. Alured. et Walkelin. tenent feodum militis et pro tali servitio fuit in tempore Regis H. Thomas de Periton tenuit in tempore Regis H. feodum militis et tenet. Johannes Mareschall tenuit feodum militis in tempore Regis H. et Gilbertus, filius ejus, tenet. MEMORANDA (in the Lord Remem. side of the Exchequer). Jones Ind. to records vol. ii.) Witney. Clam-eum de Ballivis de Witney exonerandis de pretio bonorum et Catallorum Thomae Vause attincti, et de eisdem bonis et catal-lis Roberto Winton. Episcopo virtute Literarum Regis Hen-rici Sexti patentium, allocatis, in comitatu Oxoniæ.

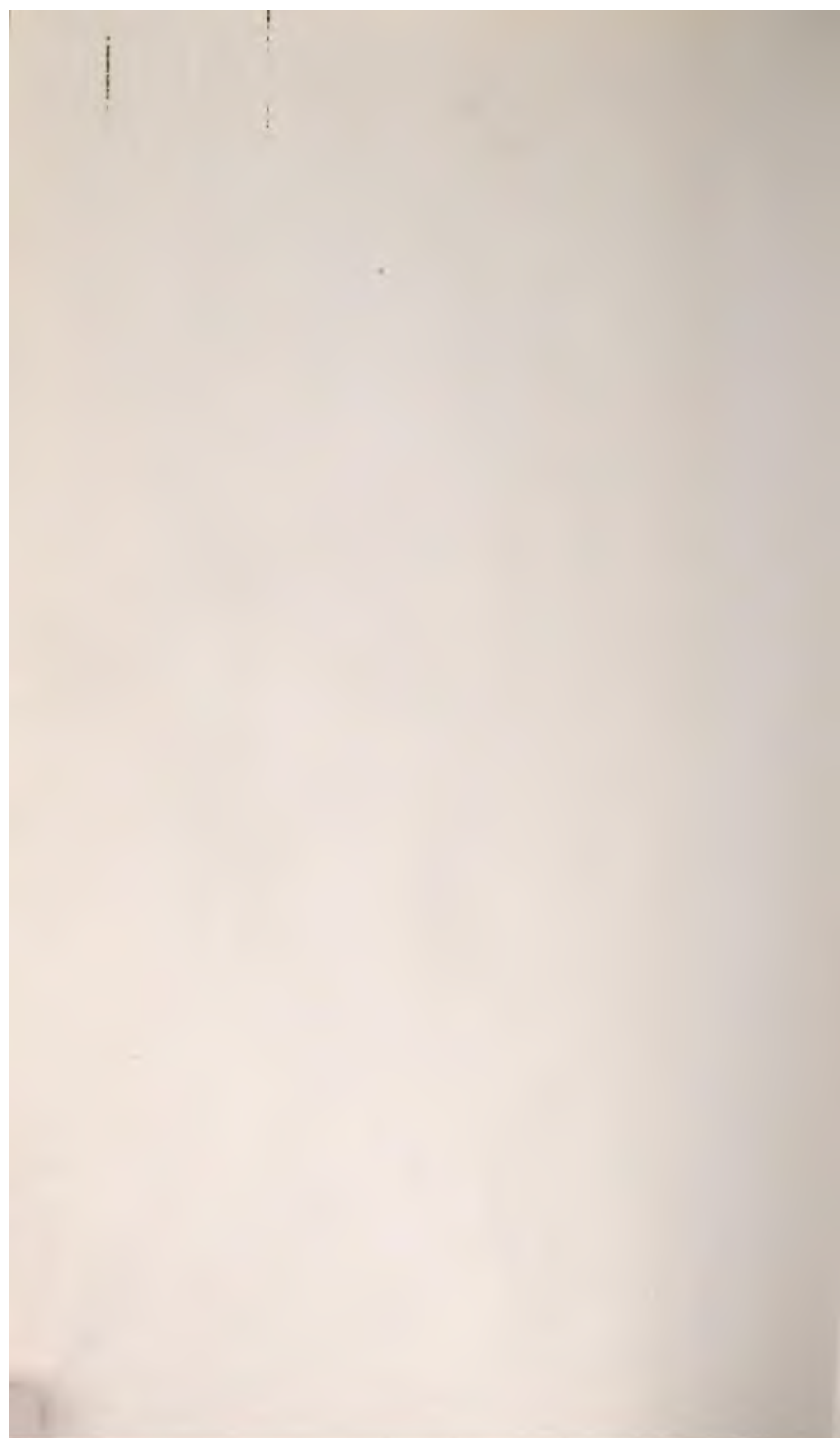
Paschæ Recordæ, 15 Eliz. Rotulo 9.

Wytney, De liberis Edwardi Sexti patentibus, Willielmo Box, confectis. de cantaria B. Mariæ, in Wytney in comitatu Oxoniæ, et aliis Terris et Tenementis in civitate Londoniæ.

Michaelis Ricorda. 1 et 2 Philippi et Mariæ, Rot. 144.

THE END.





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